

FREE EUROSTAR TICKET
IT'S NOT TOO LATE
START
COLLECTING
TODAY: TOKEN
PAGE 38

BEST FOR BOOKS
RW Apple Jr on the
President America deserves
PLUS: Enoch Powell; Antonia
Fraser; Tibor Fischer PAGES 38,39

DOWN TO BRASS TACKS
Tara Fitzgerald
puts oompah into
a colliery band
FILMS,
PAGE 36

BEST FOR JOBS
Company
innovative,
world
and us.

APPOINTMENTS, 22 PAGES
SECTION 3

Moral debate is boost for Labour

Blair surges even farther into the lead

By Peter Riddell

TONY BLAIR and Labour have jumped to their highest poll ratings since the spring after the party conferences and the Government's recent display on policy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, puts Labour on 56 per cent against 28 per cent for the Conservatives and dashes Tory hopes that the party might at last have started to narrow the gap significantly.

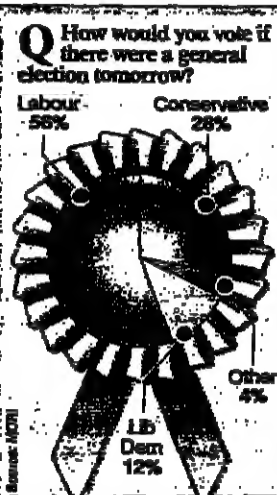
Labour's lead has been in double figure for four years — and at least 20 points for nearly three. With only six months to go before the likely election date of May 1, the Tories have more to recover and less time to do it than any party has yet achieved. At the same stage of previous parliaments, the Tories were either ahead in the polls or — as in 1991 — only a few points behind.

Support for Labour, which had declined during the late summer, has risen by four points over the past month to the highest level since last March. The Tories have slipped one point and the Liberal Democrats have dropped two to 12 per cent.

The poll comes at a time when the parties have been trying to seize the initiative over law and order, morality and education. But the Government has suffered from a series of public gaffes and divisions over gun control, the sponsorship of bills on stalking and paedophiles and over corporal punishment in schools.

Labour and Mr Blair, who has taken a high profile on these moral and family values issues, have benefited and there has been a dramatic increase in the Labour leader's personal approval rating.

That had fallen sharply during the summer after divisions within Labour and criticism of his leadership. But since late September, those saying that they are satisfied with the way he is doing his job have jumped from 42 to 51 per cent, while those expressing dissatisfaction have dropped from 35 to 27 per cent.



ped from 35 to 27 per cent. Consequently, his net rating — calculated by subtracting the number dissatisfied from the number satisfied — has improved from +7 to +24 points, the highest level since March. Among Labour supporters, his net approval rating has risen from +41 to +60.

The main consolation for the Tories is that much of Labour's gain has been at the expense of the Liberal Democrats and other parties, and that Labour has for several years enjoyed much improved poll ratings after the party conferences.

Moreover, some key underlying trends are moving in favour of the Tories. Dissatisfaction with the performance

both of the Government and the Prime Minister continues to decline, albeit very slowly. The public still remains dissatisfied with the way Mr Major is doing his job by a 2-1 margin and is dissatisfied with the Government by 4-1.

The public is also more confident about the economy. The MORI economic optimism index, measuring those expecting that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months stands at +1 point. This is the same as a month ago but compares with an average of -10 points in the first half of this year.

This index has in the past been closely linked with voting intentions and is one of the main reasons why President Clinton is so confident of re-election on Tuesday. But the close relationship between economic optimism and party support has broken down in the past couple of years in Britain as the Tories have not received credit for the recovery.

A report out today says that consumer optimism about the economy and household finances is at its highest level since before the recession and is growing in most parts of the country.

The survey, from the economic consultants Business Strategies, points to receding worries over unemployment and expectations of continuing low inflation.

The well-publicised conference of the Referendum Party in Brighton 12 days ago has produced only a small dividend for Sir James Goldsmith. The number of those interviewed mentioning the party has risen from 12 to 17 over the past month — or barely 1 per cent of the overall sample.

MORI interviewed 1,747 people at 161 sampling points between October 25 and 28. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they will not vote (6 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or who refused to say (4 per cent).

Feel-better factor, page 25



Standing together: John Major and Gillian Shephard showing a united front at the Cardinal Vaughan School

Major still feels sore 40 years after geography master's six of the best

By Andrew Pierce

THE Prime Minister's well-publicised opposition to corporal punishment may date back to a humiliating experience when he was subjected to six of the best in front of 24 classmates.

John Major received the once-in-a-lifetime punishment when he was still in short trousers as a pupil at Rutlish School, Wimbledon, in the mid-1950s. It was administered by the geography master, Hubert Walker, because the future Prime Minister did not do his homework.

Mr Walker, a popular teacher despite his propensity to swish the cane, had in-

Nicholas Tate... 20
Leading article... 21
Letters... 21

structed Mr Major's class to go to an industrial estate to note the name of all the companies. But it involved a mile-and-a-half trudge, the boys rebelled and Mr Major — who has been beset by revolts since becoming leader of the Tory Party — learnt what a bruising experience rebellion can be. When only one of the 25 boys handed in a completed exercise book, retribution came in the form of 24 sore bottoms.

There was no point in

complaining to his parents. Given and Tom Major-Ball, Mr Walker always announced at parents' meetings, came in hand, that if any of them objected to their children being beaten they should speak out. Mr and Mrs Major-Ball raised no objections.

Mr Walker was encouraged to adopt authoritarian measures by Mr Blenkinsop, the headmaster, whose school regime included prefects and masters in regulation mortarboards. Mr Blenkinsop — known to the boys as Champi — on the Wonder Horse because of his big teeth — regularly administered the cane to ill-disciplined youngsters.

The caning of the Prime Minister brought back un-

comfortable memories for his elder brother, Terry, who was caned twice at his primary school. He told *The Times*: "John's punishment was new."

Continued on page 2, col 3

Loan rate rise 'to check inflation'

By Alasdair Murray
Caroline Merrell and
Philip Webster

KENNETH CLARKE acted yesterday to prevent a damaging increase in interest rates in the run-up to the general election by announcing a quarter-point rise in base rates to 6 per cent.

The increase, the first upward move for almost two years, was designed to keep the Government's fight against inflation on course.

However, major mortgage lenders decided not to follow the Chancellor's lead and left mortgage rates unchanged at their lowest levels for 30 years.

Mr Clarke said that he had taken the decision to raise rates to ensure that the economy would remain on track to meet the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

"Experience has shown that by increasing rates early, as I did in 1994 and I am doing today, possible inflation can be nipped in the bud," he said. The Chancellor has been under pressure in recent months from the City and the Bank of England to raise interest rates to ensure that the economy does not overheat. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said the increase "improves the chances of achieving the Chancellor's inflation target".

The pound strengthened sharply after the announcement, but shares suffered. Sterling's trade weighted index closed at a two-and-a-half-year high and while the FTSE 100 fell 29.6 points to 3963.6.

Mr Clarke, speaking in the Commons after agreeing the rise at a morning meeting with Mr George, said that he was "ahead of the game" and was acting now to prevent rises in inflation in 18 months to two years' time when he expected there still to be a Conservative government.

Leading article, page 21
Boost to sterling, page 25
Graham Scarsent, page 29

Rwandan troops in raid on Zaïre

Rwanda sent commandos across the Ruzizi river into eastern Zaïre, bringing the two countries to the verge of war. The Rwandan Government threatened a stronger retaliation against an alliance of Rwanda's former armed forces, Hutu extremist militia and Zaïre's army. Page 14

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

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Murdered boy's cruel mother jailed

By Joanna Balle

RUTH NEAVE, the mother accused of strangling her six-year-old son Rikki, was cleared of his murder yesterday but jailed for seven years after admitting cruelty.

The boy's father and other members of his family appeared shocked as the Northampton Crown Court jury of seven women and five men found Neave, 28, not guilty. She had denied murder but admitted two charges of child cruelty.

Shortly after the verdict, the jury listened to a catalogue of cruelty and neglect of Rikki and his three sisters. She had burnt one daughter's hand with a cigarette, squirted washing up liquid down Rikki's throat and turned the boy out of the house wearing only pyjamas in the early hours of a December morning when he was only three.

Neave, a drug abuser, had also threatened to kill Rikki unless social workers agreed to take him into care. He had



Rikki, who was 6 when he died, and Ruth Neave

been on Cambridgeshire County Council's social services department's "at risk" register and there were calls for a public inquiry last night into their handling of the case and the way in which they failed to heed the countless warning signs. The council announced that it had suspended two social workers.

Rikki's body was found in woods near his home on the Welland Estate in Peterborough. PC Robert McNeill, who was called when Rikki



Rikki, who was 6 when he died, and Ruth Neave

disappeared, told the court that he had searched the spot where the body was later found. He carried out the search at the same time that Neave was talking to police about his disappearance. This meant that she could not have dumped his body, and with no scientific evidence linking her to the murder, this suggested her innocence.

The judge, in his summing up, directed the jury to acquit Neave of murder if they

believed the evidence of the policeman.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Phipps said: "I have rarely come across a case of such systematic and persistent cruelty to young children." He told Neave that she was "plainly an inadequate person and wholly unfit to be a mother", adding that the sentence had to "reflect the public abhorrence of this cruelty."

Neave said in a statement through her solicitor, Paul Bacon: "I have always maintained my innocence. Many people who lived near me were quick to condemn me without having heard a word of evidence."

"I have had to wait for this moment now to be able to say to them that I am not guilty of killing my own child. I hope the police will now redouble their efforts to find the true killer of Rikki."

She has already been in jail for 18 months awaiting trial and could be eligible for release in two years.

Social services failed, page 5

M16 gave France list of 'moles'

M16 provided the French secret service with a list of some 300 French diplomats and foreign service officials suspected of being communist spies during the Cold War. *Le Monde* reported.

The file was handed over in 1993, when Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, was Foreign Minister. Page 13

Chinese dissident jailed for 11 years

Wang Dan, a Chinese dissident, was jailed for 11 years for conspiring to subvert the Communist Government. An appeal is expected to fail. Wang, 27, was a student leader of the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Page 12

Postal strike talks
Talks to avert Christmas post disruption may start today after staff voted heavily to continue their long-running strike campaign over pay and hours. Page 2

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TV & RADIO	41	LETTERS	21	ARTS	35-37	SPORT	42-46, 48
WEATHER	24	OBITUARIES	23	CHESS & BRIDGE	42	BODY & MIND	18
CROSSWORDS	24-48	WILLIAM REES-MOGG	20	COURT & SOCIAL	22	LAW REPORT	31

Heavyweights make the House tremble

GOOD Commons speeches are like buses. None turn up for ages then two turn up at the same time. Just when you despair of witnessing any Commons performance of any stature between now and the next election, two barnstorming orators remind you that good debaters still exist at Westminster.

First over the hill in the Economy debate yesterday afternoon was Gordon Brown. We could almost hear the hooves thundering as he approached. The moment he rose, the Shadow Chancellor was on a roll. Buoyed by the Chancellor's embarrassment over interest rates, Mr Brown took his speech at a furious gallop, and was never un-

horsed. Critics scoff (Clarke did) that this was the speech Brown always makes. So it was, but you might just as well complain that Pavarotti always sings *Nessun dorma*. So he does, the important question being whether he belts it out in better or worse throat than before. I have never heard Mr Brown belting out his familiar personal solo of dire economic news in more confident voice.

Like an Old Testament Jeremiah, and in his peculiar thunderous growl, Brown bashed the table and ham-fisted home all the old Family Favourites from the *Shadow Chancellor's Songbook*. Britain was being overtaken in "the world economic league";



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Britain was high on the European inflation league and low on the European investment league. The OECD, VAT, the EU and CGT were flung around the Chamber, as acronyms, quotations and statistics bounced from the rafters and clattered to the floor.

While Brown stormed on, knocking interruptors aside, this sketch was able to identify the key to his idiosyncratic speaking style. The first part of a sentence is delivered normally, but a few words from the end, Brown suddenly

comes down hard on each successive word, hitting each singly, stopping, then hitting the next — the final word being roared at the lowest key with a dreadful finality. It is like a plane coming in to land, smacking the runway, bouncing, and coming to a shuddering halt. Thus: "They're near the bottom of every. One. Of. These. Leagues." Or: "The truth about the economy is that they are economical. With. The. Truth." The effect is awesome. Brown sat down to a heartening cheer.

Kenneth Clarke rose to reply. He had just had to raise interest rates — and now witnessed a revitalised Opposition. Anyone of less Tigerish buoyancy would have been disheartened, but not our Ken. Within seconds he, too, was up to speed, throwing out statistics of his own, ridiculing Brown's gloom.

"Best inflation for 50 years!" "Unemployment at its lowest level for five and a half years!" Clarke soon had the Tories laughing and cheering behind him. "The only people who don't believe the strength of the economy are either mad, dead, or sitting on the benches opposite!" he cried, starting the sentence with insufficient puff and ending it in that

strangled squawk he has made his own. Clarke began to irk Brown, who interrupted him. The Chancellor reacted by goading him more, and by the end the Shadow Chancellor had bounced up seven times to protest or question.

It is said that little divides these two men ideologically. Certainly they were unconsciously aping each other's style: trading statistical missiles, parrying with scornful laughter, resting elbows on the dispatch box, or placing one hand on hip and sweeping the air with the other. Two political heavyweights, in every sense. Irresistible force met immovable object yesterday, and, for one glorious hour, the Commons floor shook.

Parents to have say on moral code in schools

Parents are to play a central role in the dispute between the Education Secretary and her advisers on whether overt support for marriage should be part of a moral code for schools, which was published in draft form yesterday.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority rushed out its paper ahead of schedule after Gillian Shephard quoted passages in the *Commons*. The proposals, reported in *The Times* earlier this week, were drafted from the views of a 150-strong forum. They include a commitment to family life but no mention of the importance of marriage. The paper issued for consultation acknowledges that five members of the forum objected. *Nicholas Tate, page 20, Letters, page 21*

£410m aid for beef farmers

A £415 million package of measures to help farmers hit by the BSE beef crisis was agreed by European Union farm ministers yesterday. More than half the money will go to Britain, France and Germany and only Germany voted against the plan at the end of the three-day meeting. Demand for beef in Europe has since fallen by 15 per cent since March and farmers' losses are estimated at £1 billion.

Bank-plot couple guilty

A couple were convicted yesterday of an elaborate £10 million plot involving the only cheque ever to have been stolen from the Bank of England. The business consultant Peter Garnett, 54, and his accountant wife Linda, 52, of Southwark, south London, showed no emotion at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court as the jury convicted them of conspiracy to defraud. They are to be sentenced on November 23.

Tanker oil washed ashore

Thousands of tonnes of crude oil is being washed up on the Pembrokeshire coast as high winds and tides drive in pollution from the *Sea Empress*, which ran aground in March. The sludge is affecting beaches near Milford Haven and threatening shellfish. The contamination is believed to be coming from oil that seeped into the sand. Less than 5 per cent of the 72,000 tonnes spilled in the disaster was recovered.

Anti-boxing advert launched

A cinema advertisement that uses a conker fight to portray the dangers of boxing has been launched by the British Medical Association. The association has repeatedly called for a ban on boxing in the light of medical evidence that it causes lasting brain damage. In the past three years, six boxers have been seriously injured in the ring and two have died.

Catholic poll rejects celibacy

More than two out of three Roman Catholics believe compulsory celibacy for priests should end, according to a poll of 1,000 parishioners in England and Wales published in tomorrow's *Catholic Herald*. The survey shows 69 per cent believe priests should be allowed to marry, with 21 per cent believing that the rule will change soon, and 19 per cent that the church will never change its mind on the issue.

£300m plan for Cambridge

A draft plan for a £300 million science and technology centre on the outskirts of Cambridge was announced by the university yesterday. It is part of a strategy to provide modern research and teaching facilities away from cramped buildings in the city centre. Dons and local people will have a chance to examine the scheme before any planning application is submitted next year.

Muggers target BBC staff

BBC staff are being terrorised by muggers targeting their expensive laptop computers as they travel to work at Television Centre. Nineteen workers have been robbed this year with one woman suffering three broken ribs after being knocked unconscious. The computers can fetch £500 on the black market. The BBC has laid on free shuttle buses for the short trip to its Wood Lane HQ, London.

Opera house plan approved

The Royal Opera House won approval yesterday for plans to build a temporary South Bank theatre while its historic Covent Garden building is renovated. The decision follows a public inquiry and saves the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet from having to go on tour during the £214 million renovation. Objectors said the site opposite the Tower of London should have been used to alleviate the housing problem.

Progress of scrapie slowed

Researchers in Milan have shown that the progress of the sheep disease scrapie can be slowed by using drugs developed to treat bladder cancer. The effects are small, prolonging the life of hamsters infected with scrapie by a fifth, and the drugs highly toxic. But the results, in *New Scientist*, offer evidence that similar diseases, which include "mad cow" disease and the human brain disease CJD can be slowed.

Smokers blamed for fires

Smokers cause more than 9,000 serious fires each year, killing up to 200 people, injuring 2,000, and causing more than £20 million damage to homes, according to a study by the insurers CGA Direct. In West Sussex and South Yorkshire, more than 18 per cent of fires were caused by smokers. The company may offer discounts to non-smokers.

Magazine editor's suicide

Tim Nicholson, 32, Editor of the men's magazine *Arena*, threw himself to his death from a cliff at Salden, near Brighton, because he disagreed with editorial decisions that had been forced on him in his latest issue. Police discovered a suicide note left at the top of the cliff as well as a copy of the magazine with savage crossings-out. The inquest was told.

Strike vote threatens Christmas post service

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TALKS aimed at averting disruption to the Christmas post are to begin immediately between the Royal Mail and union leaders after postal workers strongly backed a resumption of industrial action in the long dispute over pay and hours.

Members of the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) voted by 64,919 to 40,581 to continue the campaign of strikes, which began in the summer and has cost the Royal Mail £40 million. The result, 61 per cent supporting further action on a turnout of 78 per cent, gave the union an "unquestionable mandate" to reject the Royal Mail's offer on pay, jobs, hours and working practices, said Alan Johnson, its joint general secretary.

But last night both sides were hopeful that talks, which could start today, could avert the threat to Christmas deliveries after the union made a significant concession on the management's desire to introduce US-style teamworking.

The union's executive will meet next week and, should

the talks with the Post Office fail to produce signs of a settlement, will consider further action.

Under current employment law, strikes have to take place within 28 days of the declaration of a ballot result, or the ballot's legal mandate falls, so any strikes would occur during the start of the build-up of Christmas mail from late November onwards. Mr Johnson said: "We have no desire to see postal services taken away at Christmas. We want to see a negotiated settlement."

Leaders of the CWU came under intense pressure for a rebalancing — including calls for a fresh vote from Tony Blair, the Labour leader — after lengthy negotiations produced new versions of the Post Office's offer on pay, working practices and teamworking.

The new formal talks with the Post Office will follow informal discussions held privately earlier this week at the union's request. The union suggested a joint working party, chaired by an independent outsider.

Major still sore over six of the best

Continued from page 1
er discussed. It was not the sort of thing you talked about over the dinner table. My parents would not have been angry with the school.

"They were cross if we were caned because it meant we had misbehaved at school. Discipline was a strong point with them. I must have been angrier than John because I was caned twice for talking to girls in the classroom. I deserved it."

"I don't think caning ever hurt anyone. But I might be more old-fashioned than my younger brother."

Fanny Junor, who wrote an authorised biography of John Major, said last night: "He told me he is still indignant about that beating. It did not seem fair. He had to walk a long way to get to that homework assignment on an industrial estate."

"Then he had a journey of an hour-and-a-half back to his home in Brixton. Most of the boys did not think the trip was worth it. It explains why he is still sore about it. Particularly as it was a mass beating."

In her book, *The Major Enigma*, Ms Junor reported that Rutlish was the worst experience of the Prime Minister's life. "When he went back to Rutlish in 1991 for a special anniversary, he said he had no memory of the school at all — so deeply had he buried that period of his life he did not even recognise the building."

Peter Stokes, a pupil at the same time as Mr Major and now chairman of the Old



John Major's school days: one caning was enough for the future Prime Minister

Rutlishians Association, had only distant memories of the Prime Minister. "It was easier to remember the cane. If boys misbehaved that was how they were punished. Discipline was strong."

"People may have got the impression that the Prime Minister was educated in a poor inner-city school. Not a bit of it. It was a strict pseudo-public school. That may be why he hates the cane today."

But Mr Major has not always been so vigorously opposed to corporal punish-

ment. The Commons voting record shows that he was on the side of rightwingers in July 1986, when MPs came within one vote of keeping caning in state schools with parental consent. Since then, according to Tory sources, he has changed his mind.

Gillian Shephard, who was rebuffed by Mr Major on Tuesday for suggesting that state schools might reintroduce the cane, was never beaten at school. She was converted to corporal punishment by her husband, Thom-

as, a retired headmaster who was known to resort to it.

In spite of their differences, Mr Major and Mrs Shephard put on a display of unity to mark the publication of the Education Bill yesterday. They arrived together for a tour of Cardinal Vaughan School in Kensington during which the Mr Major constantly referred to his Education Secretary as Gill. He even presented her with a golden delicious, declaring: "An apple for the teacher."

Major to increase pressure on Sinn Fein

By Nicholas Watt

JOHN Major is increasing pressure on ministers and the Irish Government to force the IRA to meet tougher conditions before Sinn Fein leaders are allowed to return to Northern Ireland multi-party talks.

The Prime Minister is pressing for terrorists to be forced to follow stricter rules in the wake of an IRA ceasefire. Ministers have said that, before Sinn Fein is admitted to talks, there must be a credible IRA ceasefire but have not previously listed any specific conditions.

Among the tougher demands being considered by ministers are that there must be clear evidence of an end to terrorist training, manufacture of bomb-making equipment and targeting of individuals and buildings.

The moves come amid intelligence reports that suggest the IRA is making detailed preparations for a series of attacks on security bases and high profile individuals along Northern Ireland's affluent "gold coast" in North Down, near Belfast.

The information indicates that a known IRA terrorist has organised a series of "dummy runs" against RUC and Army bases in North Down.

Review of hunting with dogs launched

By Michael Hornsby

THE first major review of hunting with hounds in 45 years was launched yesterday by Sir David Steel, executive chairman of the Countryside Movement, said it would take into account changes in the management of the countryside and in public opinion.

The former Liberal leader said he hoped the report would contribute to an informed debate if a Labour Government allowed a free vote on fox-hunting. The review team will include Richard Phelps, a retired public administrator and former Treasury mandarin, and William Allen, Professor of Equine Reproduction at Cambridge University.

The Scott Henderson report of 1951 concluded that hunting, should continue because it was an effective means of keeping down foxes and was less cruel than most other methods. The Countryside Movement, set up last year, claims to speak broadly for rural interests but insists it is not running a pro-hunting campaign as such.

The League Against Cruel Sports said: "We have severe doubts that something set up by the Countryside Movement would be completely independent."

Ban on handguns goes too far, senior Tory MPs tell Howard

By James Landale

A DEPUTATION of about 15 senior Tory MPs who believe that government moves to ban most handguns go too far yesterday urged the Home Secretary to offer gun-owners more compensation.

As the campaign by some Tories to water down the proposals began, the MPs told Michael Howard of their anger at the Firearms Bill which will be published tomorrow. In a "tense but organised" meeting at the House of

Commons, the MPs, led by Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP for Weston-super-Mare, told Mr Howard that the ban on all handguns except 22 small calibre sports pistols was excessive.

Sir Jerry said they had told Mr Howard that he was wrong to have gone beyond the proposals of the Cullen inquiry, set up after the Dunblane massacre. The MPs demanded that compensation be "generous and full". Gun owners, traders and club organisers must be compensated not just for their unus-

able weapons but also for their redundant equipment, loss of earnings, and for the costs involved with the closure of clubs.

The MPs also pressed Mr Howard to explain the situation over muzzle-loading and antique pistols — often held for historical reasons and not for use. Mr Howard was also questioned about the suggestion that all expanding ammunition must be banned. The MPs said that expanding ammunition would still be needed for vermin control.

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Fertility authority agrees to take fresh look at widow's plea

Review gives new hope to woman fighting for dead husband's baby

By Emma Wilkins and James Landale

A WIDOW who is fighting for the right to have her late husband's baby was cautiously optimistic yesterday that she might be allowed to take his sperm abroad for fertilisation treatment.

Diane Blood, 30, whose husband Stephen died of bacterial meningitis last year, said she was delighted after the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority announced it was to reconsider her case. But Mrs Blood, who lost her High Court action for the right to her husband's sperm earlier this month, emphasised that her hopes had been raised and dashed so many times that she could not bear to be disappointed again.

"I have been through hell in the last 18 months so to knock my feelings back now would be the cruellest blow of all," she said. "I am happy that the HFEA has decided to look at my individual circumstances. I am cautiously hopeful, although my feelings have been pulled around many times before."

Mrs Blood, from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, is ready to pay the cost of private treatment at a fertility clinic in Belgium if the HFEA decides that she can take her husband's sperm abroad. "I will be off to Belgium like a shot," she said.

She said the first decision 18 months ago had been taken without looking into the background of the case. All the authority had known was that a wife was asking to use her late husband's sperm without written consent.

"They didn't know that I believed I was pregnant when Stephen died or that we'd discussed the issue and he'd agreed to the posthumous use of his sperm. The fact that



Stephen Blood: wanted children

they've asked for my evidence from the court case suggests to me that they want to look at the individual and unique circumstances of my case," she said. "It's very good news — but it's not a victory."

The HFEA is bound by the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act to disallow the use of sperm in Britain unless the donor has given his written consent. But in cases where sperm is to be exported or imported, the HFEA has discretionary powers.

The HFEA, which will consider the case next month, said: "The authority has the discretion to change its mind in cases of export or import. It wants to ensure that no stone is left unturned so this can be resolved sooner rather than later."

The couple, who were desperate for a child, married in 1991 with a service in accordance with the traditional 1662 Book of Common Prayer

which places special emphasis on the conception of children as the purpose of marriage.

After the High Court ruled that the HFEA had not behaved unlawfully in banning Mrs Blood from taking her husband's sperm abroad, a powerful cross-bench alliance of peers led by fertility experts Lord Winston and Baroness Warnock called for a change in the law. During a House of Commons debate yesterday into the issues raised by Mrs Blood's case, Joe Ashton — her local MP — said the law was beginning to look like an ass.

"It is not fair or reasonable under any law, under any circumstances — moral, legal or otherwise — that this woman should be denied the right to have a child by her husband. Really the law begins to look like an ass."

But David Alton (Liberal Democrat) argued that a child should have two parents wherever possible. "To treat a father simply as a source of genetic material is to ignore the strong interests of children in forming relationships with those who bring them into being." Conservative, Dame Jill Knight insisted the interests of children had to be paramount and warned that for a child "to have to take on board the fact that he was born from a dead man would be enough to occasion nightmares."

Mrs Blood, who is taking her case to the Appeal Court, thanked the public for their moral and financial support. She is appealing for funds to help cover her legal costs estimated at £100,000.

□ The Stephen Blood Baby Appeal, which has so far raised £20,000, can be reached on 0121 643 4636.



Diane Blood: cautiously optimistic that she will be allowed to take her late husband's sperm abroad. "It's good news but not a victory," she said yesterday

Tips on spotting a winner still can't guarantee the gift horse

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor, and Lin Jenkins

AFTER many hours at the racetrack, two Australian scientists believe they know how to spot a loser.

Instead of gazing vaguely at the horses as they parade before a race, they urge punters to concentrate on six characteristics to avoid putting their money on duds.

Dr Geoff Hutson, an animal behaviourist from the University of Melbourne, and Marie Haskell, a PhD student, spent 20 months studying the appearance and behaviour of 867 horses in 67 races at two Melbourne racetracks.

They gave each horse a score based on 29 variables. *New Scientist* reports. Of those, 19 were based on the horse's appearance and behaviour, and the rest on more traditional sources such as the formbook, the jockey, the horse's age and sex, and the odds being offered. "We reckon we have six variables that will help a punter to recognise a loser," Dr Hutson says. "In other words, you can narrow down the field, thereby increasing your chances of finding a winner. If you could eliminate enough horses, you could bet on the field and come out on top."

Some of the six variables are obvious: horses at long odds, or those heavily handicapped in the weights, are likely losers. But the other four are more subtle.

One is the angle of the horse's head, which should be about 45 degrees. Another is how firmly the stable lad has to hold the horse when it is in the parade ring: the ideal is to look for a horse that needs to be only loosely held.

Any horse that requires handling by course stewards before it will enter the starting gate is bad news, says Dr Hutson, and so is any horse that has any bandages on it. They may conceal an injury. "If you spotted a horse with a combination of these variables, then I'd go straight to the bar rather than the bookie," he told *New Scientist*.

During the study, he says, two thirds of the horses they

picked as losers duly lost. "In general, the more relaxed the racehorse, the more chance it had of winning," he concludes.

Next Tuesday is Melbourne Cup day, when the whole of Australia stops for the running of the big race. Dr Hutson's tip this year is the Irish St Leger winner Oscar Schindler. "Its condition looked perfect on television," he says. "But if it acts up in the paddock then I might change my mind."

The racing fraternity is, unsurprisingly, sceptical about the research. Years of trial and error have failed to produce any foolproof method of determining which horses will win and which will lose. Were it so easy the sport would collapse.

The Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, which is at the forefront of research into horses' health and behaviour, said: "There are so many factors that determine the condition and wellbeing of a horse that even if every horse was given a complete veterinary examination using the latest modern equipment before the race, while you might eliminate a few horses from your list, the bookmakers would still probably end up taking home more money than the vets."

Graham Sharpe, of the bookmakers William Hill, said his profession was more interested in discovering which horse would win rather than which would not. "This is not much of a breakthrough in the battle between the punters and the bookmakers."

"If they could tell us which of the field apart from one is going to lose, we would very soon go bankrupt. Congratulations on spending money on finding out what most punters know already — on the basis of the form, the odds and how they look in the paddock they are not going to win."

He said that the research was not the answer to punters' prayers. "Horses are very capable of surprising people. No-hoppers may well thumb their noses at the researchers."

Racing, page 43

School fined for expulsion errors

By John O'Leary, education editor

A SCHOOL has been ordered to pay £300 to the family of a teenage girl who was expelled for a "violent attack on a fellow pupil because of error made during the expulsion process."

The girl and fellow pupil, both aged 15, were ordered to leave Noel Baker Community School in Alston, Derbyshire, after the head teacher discovered that they had punched and kicked a third girl. The attackers were expelled in February but both sets of parents lodged appeals against the decision.

Although separate appeal hearings upheld the expulsions, the family of one girl complained that the hearing had not been conducted properly. Patricia Thomas, the education ombudsman for the north of England, has ruled in her favour and ordered the £300 payment.

Mrs Thomas found a number of faults in the appeals procedure, including the absence of a clerk and the holding of a hearing in the school. She concluded that the findings were sufficiently serious to render the hearing invalid, although both girls

responsible have now moved to other schools. The school, which has 1,225 pupils and lies on the outskirts of Derby, was praised by Ofsted inspectors last November. They described it as "a haven for pupils... a safe and orderly environment".

Geoff Wynne, the head teacher of the grant-maintained school, said the victim of the attack suffered cuts and bruises and had to be taken to hospital. "I think the two girls who were responsible can count themselves extremely lucky the consequences were not more serious," he said. "I decided they should be expelled because I wanted to send a clear message this sort of behaviour is not acceptable."

Mr Wynne added: "When I first saw her report, I felt it was horrendous that a payment of £300 should be made to the family. I felt it was wrong that the money should be paid. The panel are lay people who do their best to help the school but you have to view this dispassionately. When you make a mistake you have to take your medicine."

Nuns win fight to keep convent dry

By Paul Wilkinson

A COMMUNITY of nuns yesterday thwarted a property developer who wanted a licence to serve alcohol in their former convent.

They persuaded magistrates not to grant a drinks licence for their former home, part of which has been converted into a banqueting suite. The sisters now live in a retreat in the convent grounds.

Mother Robina and the nine sisters from the tiny community of St Peter in Horbury near Wakefield, west Yorkshire, believed their listed Victorian convent was to be used for educational purposes when they sold the building in 1993 for £440,000 and three acres of ground for £265,000, to John Kirby, a local businessman.

Part of the building was already occupied by St Hilda's prep school, but yesterday Mother Robina told Wakefield Licensing Justices that she was shocked when Mr Kirby, a governor of the school, sought a licence for special events on an upper floor.

She said afterwards: "We are so pleased, this must be divine intervention. All the sisters went into the chapel to

pray this morning at 10am just as the case was about to start. There has been a tremendous amount of praying over this. We hope this is the end of the matter, but if he comes back again, we are quite prepared to return to court."

The hearing was told that the Church of England order, which in the 1930s had more than 70 members, had faced a financial crisis. It was sold through one of Mr Kirby's companies to a trust which allowed another of his firms to administer it. The developer told the hearing that the building was in decline when he bought it, and he had spent £500,000 on renovation.

Two years ago the nuns successfully opposed his first application for a drinks licence, but since then he has held about 50 functions. He obtained occasional licences for about a dozen of them.

After the decision, Robert Campbell, Mr Kirby's solicitor, said: "We are sad that the local people did not appreciate that this could be of benefit for their community. At this stage there are no plans for an appeal or a new application."

High time to find a masterpiece

By John Shaw

A VICTORIAN painting worth up to £180,000 has been found at a country house in Suffolk, 80 years after the art market lost trace of it.

John Vest, managing director of a saleroom in Newmarket, was doing a routine probate valuation when he spotted the painting — *Cleobulus instructing his daughter Cleobulina* by Frederic, Lord Leighton — hung high in a lofty hall.

He said: "I saw this picture out of the corner of my eye at first. I assumed it would be a print but when I had a closer look, I got a real tingle of excitement."

The classical painting, measuring 2ft 11in by 3ft 3in, was one of three exhibited by the artist at the Royal Acad-



The "lost" painting, valued at up to £180,000

my 1871 summer exhibition, to critical success. Its whereabouts have been unknown since 1916. The catalogue for the Leighton centenary exhibition at The Royal Academy in Piccadilly, seen by 118,000 people between February and April this year, described the study as "untraced".

Mr Vest discussed the discovery with executors for the

estate, and decided the painting should be sold through Sotheby's in its major Victorian picture auction in London on November 6. The family wish to remain anonymous.

They always believed the study to be a Leighton, but had no idea of its potential auction value. Sotheby's estimated it to be £120,000 to £180,000. Martin Gallon,

Sotheby's specialist, said: "The discovery of this virtually unknown work is particularly important as it is from a rich and intriguing phase of Lord Leighton's career."

Leighton had a passion for the history and literature of ancient Greece. Cleobulus was a teacher and a philosopher who became one of the seven wise men of Greece in 560BC. His daughter was renowned for her knowledge, and the painter imagined them together in a house based on the interior of his own home on Lindos. Leighton later used the design of a seat at Leighton House, Kensington.

By coincidence, the sale also includes a black and white chalk drawing for the painting. It has come from another owner and is estimated at £800 to £1,200.

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Ineffective teaching verdict on troubled school sparks row

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CHRIS Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, was at the centre of a furious row last night after claims that he had prejudged the findings of an emergency inspection of the school where teachers are threatening to strike unless 60 pupils are expelled.

The Institute of Directors' Surrey Downs branch issued an account of a breakfast meeting at which Mr Woodhead was asked about The Ridings School, in Halifax, west Yorkshire. He was said to have replied that though inspectors had been in the school for only a day, they had already found that "the kids are bored out of their minds because the teachers are not teaching them effectively".

Mr Woodhead insisted that his remarks referred to the general state of schools where discipline had broken down, and not to The Ridings specifically. But Clare Walker, the branch's press officer and director of a public relations company, said that she had a note of the meeting and had cleared the contents of the release with her chairman.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, who will announce the result

Teachers at Manton Junior School went on indefinite strike yesterday as governors, local education chiefs and parents began a series of crisis meetings to try to resolve the dispute over ten-year-old Matthew Wilson. Eight of the nine teaching staff, all members of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, hope their action will persuade Matthew's mother, Pamela Cliffe, to send him to another school.

of a strike ballot among his members at the school today, accused Mr Woodhead of acting irresponsibly. "This is outrageously premature and a gross breach of confidence, which is profoundly unhelpful in the circumstances."

Mr de Gruchy said that behaviour problems at the school had made it difficult to teach well, but the staff remained committed. "The comments are unjustified and this is a disastrous way of conducting a high-profile inspection."

The two-day inspection, led by Mike Tomlinson, Mr Woodhead's deputy, was ordered by Gillian Shephard,

the Education and Employment Secretary. The findings are expected to be published within a fortnight.

Mr Woodhead's remarks were made to an audience of about a hundred directors and head teachers at a hotel in Croydon. Ms Walker said last night: "I was surprised by what he said and consulted my chairman before issuing the release, but my notes make it quite clear that he was referring to The Ridings."

An Osted spokesman said it was likely that Mr Woodhead would have received a preliminary report of the first day's inspection, but no conclusions would be drawn before the end of the exercise and no comment made in advance of publication. "The directors must have misunderstood what was being said."

The Calderdale education authority named a new head teacher for The Ridings this week after the resignation of Karen Stansfield, who said the job had exhausted her. The appointment was part of a package of measures to improve discipline at the school, but teachers are continuing to demand mass expulsions.

Leading article and Letters, page 21

Sermon on humility wins prize for best preacher

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FATHER William Anderson, a priest from Aberdeen, was yesterday named Preacher of the Year after a two-hour service at Southwark Cathedral.

Fr Anderson, 65, Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, was "astounded" to be chosen over four other preachers to win the award, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by The Times. His sermon was based on Psalm 51: "The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart. O God, shalt thou not despise."

Afterwards Fr Anderson, the only Roman Catholic to reach the shortlist of 30, from the total entry of 250, said: "I am amazed. I didn't think my sermon was particularly good."

"I think I preached better in the bathroom this morning. This was a daunting environment and a daunting congregation."

The Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, who chaired the judges said that it was a majority decision. "Fr Anderson spoke to the human condition at a deep level, at a personal



Father William Anderson at Southwark Cathedral yesterday where he was named Preacher of the Year

level and at one applicable to the community."

John Gunner, the Environment Secretary, who was on the judging panel, said: "Fr Anderson was preaching about humility and there was a humility about him. Yet it was the humility of a man who was immensely well-read. He was a remarkable preacher and as the first

to preach, he had a particularly difficult point at which to preach."

In his sermon, Fr Anderson said: "The battle goes on, in all of us, between pride and humility, and the lines can be blurred at times, the vice seeming almost to be the virtue." An Anglican friend had remarked to him recently: "Yes, I do so admire

humility—in other people."

Fr Anderson continued: "The hammering ram of God's insistent love alone will crush our underlying pride."

The other four preachers were: the Rev Christopher Burkitt, vicar of St Mary Whitegate and St Peter Little Budworth, Cheshire; Dr Arnold Kellert, a Methodist lay preacher from Knaresborough, Yorkshire; Anne Pest, an Anglican lay reader from Hertfordshire; and the Rev Bernard Thomas, 50, a priest with the Church in Wales who cares for a remote community in the South Wales valleys.

The 30 shortlisted sermons were published yesterday in The Times Best Sermons of 1996 (Cassell, £9.99).

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Looking frightened makes everyone else feel scared too

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE sight of fear in another person's face instinctively leads the brain to prepare for action, scientists have found.

A primitive structure in the left temporal lobe, the amygdala, is activated more strongly by a fearful face than by a happy one, according to Professor Ray Dolan, of the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology in Queen Square, London, who with colleagues reports the finding in Nature.

He says that the response is built into the brain from birth, and its origin is lost deep in evolution: "It is hard-wired, and innate. The sight of fear induces fear automatically, without any need to think. When we see fear in another person's face, it tells us to act quickly. We have found that it then communicates the signal to the front part of the brain



that is involved in preparing to act."

The team, including scientists from St Andrew's University, the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, and the School of Medicine at the Royal Free and University College Hospitals in London, showed volunteers a series of

photographs of faces. The expressions had been modified by the technique of "morphing" to create a graduated series of fearful and happy faces. The volunteers were not told the real purpose of the experiment, but were simply asked to identify the gender of the face in each image. While they did so, an imaging system - positron emission tomography - measuring blood flow to see which part of the brain was activated.

This showed that the left amygdala was the key region, and that its response was greater to fearful faces than to happy ones. "The response occurred even when subjects were not consciously attending to the expressions, which suggests that the brain's response to emotional influences is automatic and does not require conscious awareness," Professor Dolan says.

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Neighbours reported beatings but demoralised team ignored mother's threats to kill her son

Family says social services failed to protect Rikki Neave

By JOANNA BALE

RIKKI NEAVE'S family said yesterday that they blamed Cambridgeshire Social Services for the boy's suffering at the hands of his cruel mother. Rikki, six, was on the council's at-risk register but the team that was meant to monitor him closely was poorly managed, overworked and under-resourced.

After Neave, 28, was acquitted of killing her son but found guilty of cruelty yesterday Sandra Chesney, the boy's aunt, said: "This terrible tragedy could have been avoided if the professionals involved had carried out their duty that was expected of them. The family are calling for a public inquiry into the negligence of Cambridgeshire County Council to investigate why the law, which should have been there to protect Rikki, failed to do so."

Social workers failed to recognise that Rikki was being physically abused and ignored Neave's threat that she would kill her son unless he was taken into care.

Neave's abuse of Rikki was not secret, nor was it carried out behind closed doors at the scruffy terrace house on the Welland Estate near Peterborough. After his murder, horrific tales of what he suffered at the hands of his mother became evident and although social services say they were never aware of her worst excesses, neighbours say they reported them.

Rikki's absent father, Trevor Harvey, saw his son occasionally but said he never realised that Rikki was being abused.

Rikki was born on March 4, 1988, in March, Cambridgeshire. By the time he was three his father had left the family. Soon after that his mother married Dean Neave, whom Rikki grew to hate.

When he was four Rikki was dangled from a bridge over a river while Neave and a friend laughed at his terror. Neigh-



The rear of the house on the notorious Welland Estate where the Neaves lived

bours reported seeing him repeatedly shaken, kicked like a football and having washing liquid poured down his throat when he called her name. Neave hit one of her daughters so hard over the head with a hairbrush that it broke. Rikki was also kept away from school when the bruises to his head became too obvious. Neave also pressed hard between his finger joints which, according to the prosecution was "very painful but left no marks".

Although frightened of the dark, she would send him out alone late at night to fetch her drugs from dealers on the estate, dressed in only a T-shirt. Her dependence on amphetamines, which she injected daily, caused violent mood swings.

Despite all this, Rikki always professed his love for her, pathetically calling out: "I love you mummy."

When Neave arrived on the Welland Estate in March 1992 the Cambridgeshire social services east team was in complete disarray. The estate is among the worst deprived in the county. One-parent families living on state benefit, drugs and children on the at-risk register are common problems. A crucial file on Neave's background was lost, tension among social services colleagues was rife, and the staff turnover was high.

For the last three months of his life Rikki's social worker was Debbie Lawson. She said: "It became increasingly clear that the problems within the east team were affecting the management of this case. I believe that only a thorough independent and public inquiry can bring all the facts into the open."

Ms Lawson complained to her bosses soon after taking over Rikki's case that her workload was too big. Police sources said they were "appalled" to discover that Neave gave Ms Lawson a copy of her manuscript *The Perfect Murder* about someone who gets away with murder, but she left it in the back of her car, too busy to read it for several weeks.

Several unqualified social workers also called on the Neaves. One social services source said: "Ruth could be physically violent and on one occasion punched the wall by

the side of a social worker's face, but social workers will tell you that that doesn't always translate into violence with kids. People are always asking us to take their kids into care and making threats. If we took them all, our children's homes would be bursting."

Despite numerous case and family conferences, at no time did social workers conclude that Rikki should be taken

away from his mother. His repeated bruises and cuts were explained away by Neave as simple childhood accidents. These lies were believed, even though she was sometimes violent towards case workers.

A social services source said: "Ruth always had an explanation. She would say that he had fallen down the stairs or walked into a table. We seemed to take her word

too easily. Had one person gone in and taken charge of things, it would have been different. Ruth had been known to us for more than 20 years and it was well-documented as to what she was like as a teenager. On a number of different occasions we had enough to take Rikki into care."

Ted Unsworth, director designate of Cambridgeshire Social Services, said: "Social Services staff were working to a care plan aimed at protecting the children and supporting the family as a whole, and normal decision-making processes were followed. I believe, with hindsight, we persisted for too long with a strategy in line with the principles in the Children Act 1989, which was designed to keep the family together."

Demands for a public inquiry were backed by the social workers union Unison, which said that it had been raising concerns about the east team in Peterborough since 1992.



Neave, whose mother feared she would grow up unable to show love to a child



Harvey, absent father who did not suspect

Disturbed child was victim of a troubled family

By JOANNA BALE

RUTH NEAVE had been known to social services for most of her life as the victim of a troubled family.

Her father, Alex Greig, was confined to a wheelchair with motor neurone disease and her mother Anne had anorexia nervosa. The Greigs' other child, Mark, was born blind. Four years ago, Mr and Mrs Greig killed themselves.

Neave, 28, was taken into care at the age of two, a seriously disturbed child prone to screaming fits. Despite this and the fact that her parents attempted suicide together a month later, she was allowed back to the family home in Lewisham, southeast London, as was her brother.

For the next two years she was in and out of local authority care, showing disturbed behaviour and signs of having been physically ill-treated. At the age of four she was taken into long-term care at the request of her mother, who feared that like herself, Ruth would grow up unable to show the love and responsibility necessary to bring up a child. Neave stayed with foster parents and in children's homes in Cambridgeshire.

She saw her parents irregularly and did not attend their funeral, after they committed suicide, using painkillers, at their home near Cambridge.

When she was a teenager, Neave would play truant from school, absconding with

friends to get drunk, and specialists diagnosed her as being an "inadequate psychopath". She received treatment.

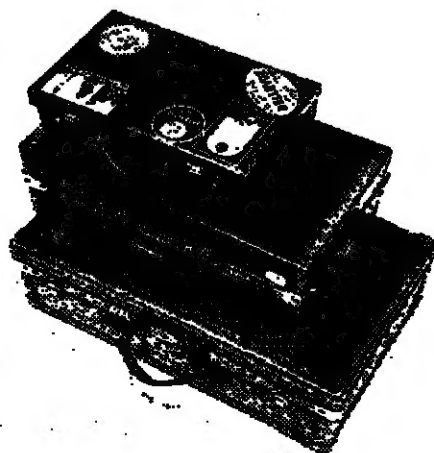
Inadequate psychopathy normally develops over a long period, quite often from adverse experiences in childhood. The expression usually implies anti-social, very disturbed behaviour, possibly with connotations based on a lack of feelings towards others. The term "inadequate", when attached to "psychopath", usually denotes emotional immaturity and difficulty with social relationships.

Neave has been in trouble with the police several times in the past for minor offences. At the age of 15 she was sent to the secure unit at an assessment centre in Peterborough. She behaved aggressively, and staff once had to wrestle a pair of scissors from her.

Neave's son, Rikki, was put on the at-risk register in April 1994 at his mother's request a year after she first asked for him to be taken into care. She had threatened to kill him unless something was done because she could not cope with his behaviour, which was caused by her own violence towards him.

Rikki had been taken into care on several occasions to give Neave a break, often when she wanted a weekend alone with his stepfather, Dean. They married while he was in prison in 1991.

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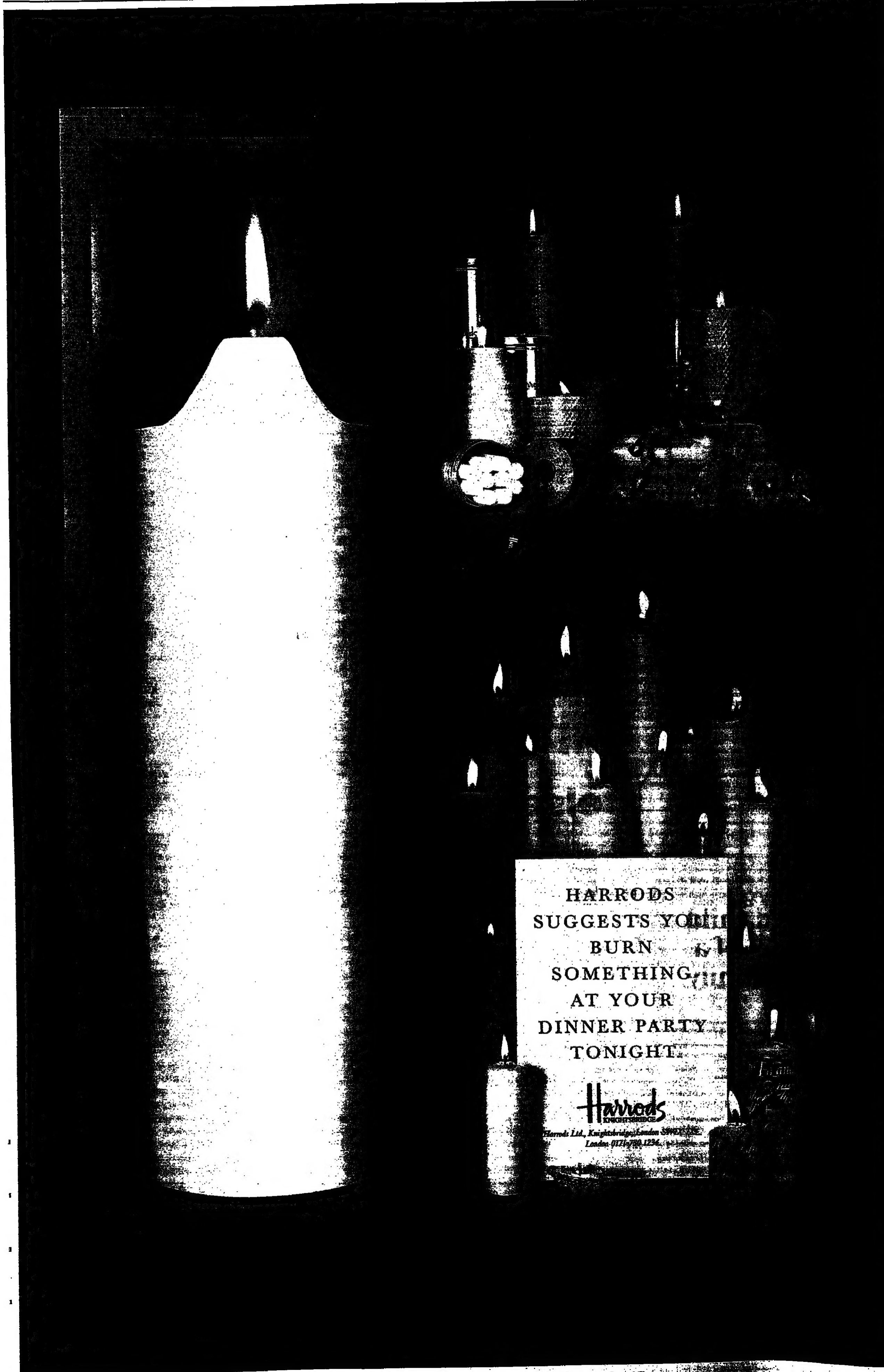
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Remembrance visit flies over the Kwai death railway to join British pilgrims at war cemeteries

Duke avoids tourist trap on bridge from yesterday

FROM ALAN HAMILTON
IN KANCHANABURI

THE BRIDGE over the River Kwai joined two worlds yesterday. In modern Bangkok, the Queen was speaking of the importance of remembering national traditions in the high-tech future. At cemeteries near the Kwai, the Duke of Edinburgh honoured British forces who died as slave labourers in a horrific past.

The Duke, who is president of the Burma Star Association, broke off from the Queen's state visit to see the graves of prisoners of war killed by cruelty, disease, exhaustion and malnutrition while building the Burma railway for their Japanese captors. His presence surprised a party of 33 British widows, sisters, children and grandchildren brought by the Royal British Legion to see the war graves, many for the first time.

The royal visitor flew over the bridge itself, making two low passes by helicopter as British and Japanese tourists took holiday snaps, but a plan for him to visit it by launch was abandoned. The cancellation was partly explained by recent flooding and partly by Palace officials who claimed he did not have enough time. But they were also concerned at the possible reaction of veterans' associations who dislike the bridge being turned into a tourist attraction.

It is not the original wooden



The Kwai railway bridge: the Duke's planned stop by river launch was changed to a fly-past

trestle structure — blown up in the film by Alec Guinness — but a more substantial concrete and steel structure that replaced it in 1943. It was bombed by Allied planes in the last months of the war. Two steel spans were replaced by the Japanese after their surrender as part of war reparations.

Tourists wander nonchalantly across, oblivious to gaping holes revealing the river 30ft below. The surroundings are shabby and clogged with stalls selling cheap souvenirs, although there is a plan by Australian veterans to erect a proper memorial.

Among 60,000 Allied troops captured at the fall of Singapore, and put to work building 250 miles of jungle track to supply Japanese invasion forces in northern Thailand and Burma, 16,000 died along

with at least 80,000 Asian slave labourers. The Kanchanaburi War Cemetery has 6,982 of their graves.

Among the pilgrims at a brief memorial service was Albert Felton, from Loughton, Essex. He came to find the grave of his brother George, who died on the railway in 1942, aged 28. Mr Felton said: "I last saw him in 1940. As I got older, I felt I ought to come out and pay his grave a visit. I am amazed how beautifully kept it all is."

Rachel Jones, 74, from Carmarthen, was on her second visit to the grave of her brother Evan, who died on the railway aged 26. She brought letters written by him in captivity and forwarded after his death. One said: "Nobody really knows what freedom is until they get in the condition we are in. Roll on the day when

we shall be free again." Also present was one of the railway survivors, Trevor Dakin, 76, originally from Duffield, Derbyshire. He went to live in Canada after the war but on his retirement from a sales career he came to live in Thailand near the bridge. He said: "I came to Thailand to be reconciled. It has been good for me and so has my new Thai wife, Saiboo."

The Duke also laid a wreath at the cemetery at nearby Chungkai, where 1,400 Britons are buried. He later flew to the town of Nakhon Sawan to open a new £30 million relay transmitter for the BBC World Service, built to replace one in Hong Kong after next year's handover to China.

In Bangkok, at an exhibition of Thai manuscripts, the Queen said: "Concern is sometimes expressed that young people can so freely gain experience of other societies that they risk losing contact with their own. It is natural for them to wish to experience the latest innovations in computer technology and visual or audio entertainment."

"But I am happy to say that many still combine this interest with participation in their own national way of life and, as they grow older, come to appreciate it ever more keenly. Notwithstanding the variety of experience open to young people, I am still confident that our own distinctive identities can be preserved."



The Duke at Kanchanaburi. A victim wrote: "Nobody knows what freedom is"

Rivalry in royal trips denied by Palace

By Emma Wilson

A VISIT by Diana, Princess of Wales to Australia is not intended to overshadow the final days of the Queen's state visit to Thailand, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The Princess's four-day visit, which will raise thousands of pounds for research into heart disease, was cleared with Palace officials several months ago. In accordance with the terms of the Princess's divorce agreement, she must seek the Queen's permission before undertaking foreign visits.

"We took the view that these are very different programmes in different parts of the world," a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

"Any suggestion of a snub is wide of the mark. The Princess was asked some months ago by the Australian charity and the date was set in concrete."

The Princess is attending a fundraising dinner tonight in aid of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. So far 800 tickets have been sold at £500 each for the event.

Tomorrow the Princess will visit the Victor Chang Institute, named after Australia's leading heart surgeon who was murdered five years ago. The murder remains unsolved.

Police believe they have talked to Josie's attacker

By Richard Duce

POLICE believe they have already interviewed the psychotic killer of Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan and expect to make an arrest soon, it emerged yesterday.

The man leading the hunt for the double murderer is convinced his detectives have seen the man who also left Josephine Russell, 9, for dead during the hammer attack in rural Kent four months ago.

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens said yesterday: "I believe we have probably already spoken to the person responsible. But we do have over 5,000 people on our database whom we have questioned and it is a matter of narrowing those down."

"There are a handful of people in the area who have been very evasive and we are still looking at them... We are getting there and hopefully in the not-too-distant future

we will be making an arrest." Mr Stevens said he believed that whoever killed Mrs Russell and her daughter was either psychotic or a paedophile who decided to attack the girls as they walked home from school with their mother. "It may be that Lin got in the way of a paedophile intent on harming the two girls," he said.

"We have to ask what was the motive? Was it the children or the mother? Or was it someone fulfilling a fantasy? There doesn't seem to be anyone in Lin's background that would want her dead."

Josephine suffered serious head injuries in the attack last July. Her speech has been badly impaired but she has been able to tell police what happened during the attack. Speech therapists have devised a special system of communication for Josie and she uses models and felt

pictures to show detectives what happened.

"This is a very slow, painful process for Josie as she remembers the events but the stuff she is giving us is really, really important. She has told us that as they were walking down the lane they had to step aside as a car passed them," Mr Stevens said.

"Later, the car blocked their path and a man got out. He produced a hammer and first attacked Lin. Josie ran off but he chased after her and pulled her back to the spot, before attacking her and then her sister and the dog."

Mrs Russell, 45, and Megan were buried last month in North Wales where the family had lived up until a year before the killings. Her husband, Dr Shaun Russell, is selling their cottage in Nonington, Kent, and plans to return to North Wales with Josephine in the new year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Birt asks Ministers for funds

John Birt, the BBC's Director-General, has called for more government cash to help to offset a possible £40 million gap in World Service funding in five years. He wants the Foreign Office to increase its grant and enter a five-year funding deal. Sam Younger, managing director of the service, told MPs that the service might have to cut at least six language services.

Exports cheer

Beer exports for the second quarter of this year were a record £69 million, and exports of cider, perry and wine have doubled in about five years. Beer's big markets are the US, Japan and Italy.

Lethal fireworks

Police have issued a warning over a missing consignment of fireworks resembling large onions, marked Northern Fireworks. They could kill if detonated by a member of the public.

Mugging death

A 92-year-old woman who was mugged after collecting her pension has died in hospital a week after the attack. Helen Boode was found in a street near her home in Leigh, Greater Manchester.

Pleasurable end

The Stone Roses have split. Singer Ian Brown said it was a pleasure to declare the demise after a decade in "the flabbiest business in the universe". The rock band was formed in 1984.

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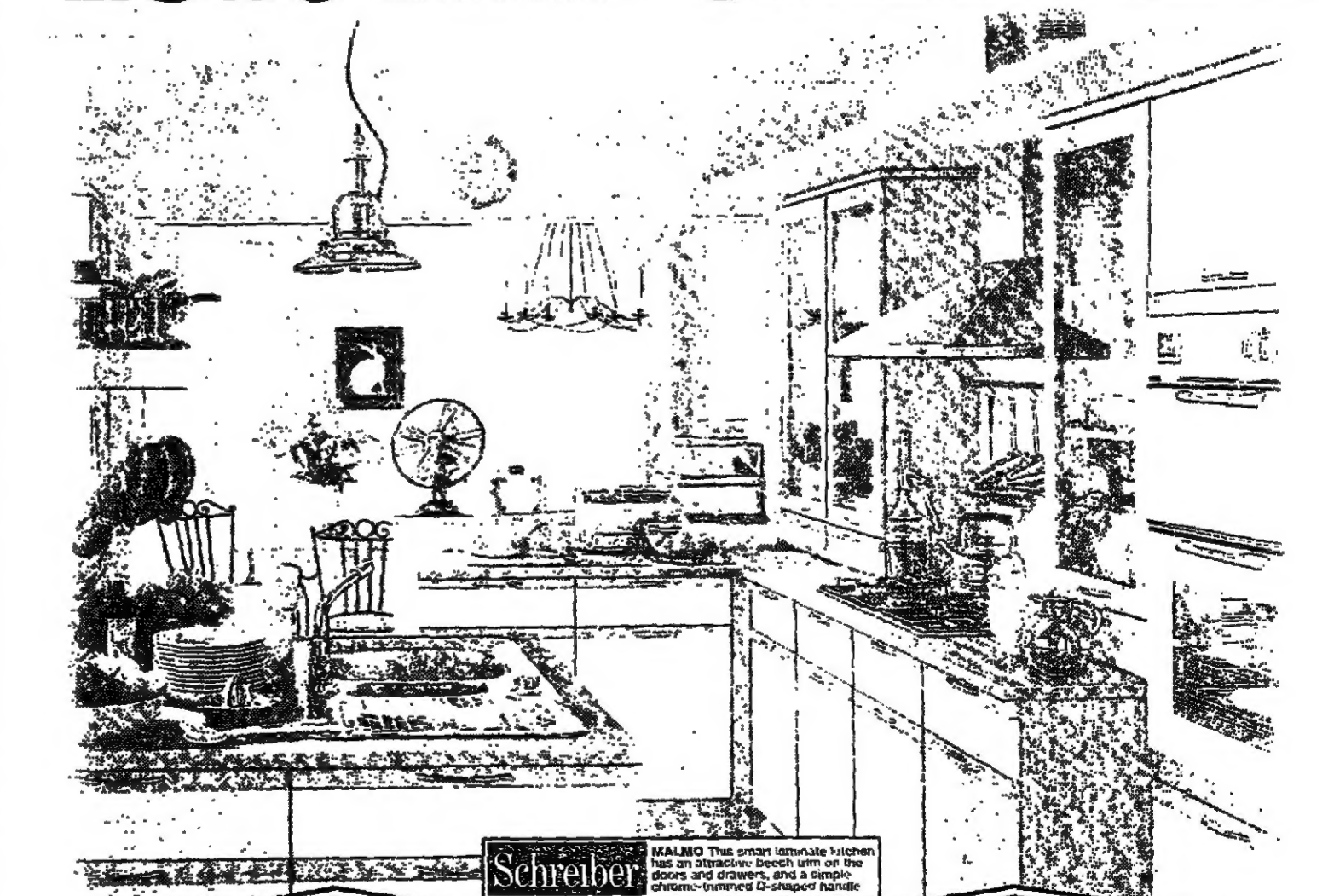
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Shake-up will mean households can shop around for clean energy, MPs say

Green power choice for consumers

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE in British cities will soon be able to choose between electricity from wind turbines in Wales or small hydroelectric schemes in Scotland or the West Country, it emerged yesterday.

Liberalisation of the energy market in 1998 could dramatically increase the development of wind farms and other green energy schemes, MPs and environmentalists said at a conference organised by the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group. Households will for the first time be able to choose the kind of generator that will provide their power.

Supermarkets, which recently an-

nounced they were diversifying into banking, are expected to become electricity companies selling power to homes. But Martin Alder, formerly of Wessex Water and a founder of the Renewable Energy Company, said that consumers would also be able to buy environmentally friendly energy from wind farms, from landfill gas-to-electricity schemes, small-scale hydroelectric projects and wood-power schemes.

Another company, Green Electron, already has a pilot project with Stroud Council in Gloucestershire in advance of the liberalisation of the market. The council's electricity needs have been calculated.

The company has matched this to a pool of green generators including a hydroelectric project run by the

monks at Buckfast Abbey in Devon. The council's contract with Green Electron, which is based in Bristol, covers payments to the power operators and the charges levied by the National Grid to distribute the electricity.

Mr Alder said that his company expected to supply homes with electricity at prices close to those offered by traditional but more polluting coal, oil and gas generators.

There has been a sharp fall in the cost of generating electricity from technologies such as wind turbines as more and more have come on stream in recent years. A survey released by the Parliamentary energy group showed that 21 per cent of people — about four million households — were prepared to pay more

for electricity if it was generated in an environmentally friendly way.

They said they were prepared to pay on average an extra £64 a year to reduce pollution and the threat of global warming, although 65 per cent of the 1,000 people questioned by Mori said they would prefer to buy green-generated electricity but only if it cost no more than that generated by fossil fuels or nuclear power stations.

Frank Cook, MP, chairman of the group, said: "The British people do not want the lowest possible bills if it means more pollution and global warming. They want a green energy future and, if necessary, they are ready to pay for it."

About 2 per cent of Britain's electricity is at present generated by renewable energies. The Labour

Party has promised to increase that to 10 per cent by 2010. Mr Alder said his greatest concern was that so many people would be eager to sign green electricity contracts, there would initially not be enough produced.

Supporters believe green schemes that reduce not only carbon dioxide but also sulphur dioxide, nitrogen gases and other pollutants linked with smog and ill health should get tax incentives to reflect their impact on reducing costs, for example, to the NHS. That might help protect them from being driven to the wall after 1998. Some experts fear that the big generators may drive electricity prices so low that environmentally friendly schemes like wind power will be uncompetitive.

Ministers salute the innovation that reduced pedestrian deaths

The zebra crossing 45 today and still a lifesaver

By LIN JENKINS

THE zebra crossing, which spawned the panda and pelican and was even in at the birth of Tufty, today celebrates its forty-fifth anniversary. It remains the single most important measure in reducing the number of pedestrian deaths each year.

When it was introduced in Slough, Berkshire, there was only a tenth of the traffic now seen on the roads. Up until then pedestrian casualties were high because few motorists noticed, or bothered to notice, the existing crossings, which were marked by metal studs in the road. Those on foot could see them clearly but the motorist felt the familiar bumps only in the seconds before he or she collided with a pedestrian.

"Others things were tried but nothing had the visual impact that made the zebra crossing so successful," Graham Goodwin, of the Transport Department, said.

The familiar amber globes of the Belisha beacon, the brainchild of Leslie Hore-Belisha, Transport Minister in 1934, were incorporated



The DoT four: Sir George Young leads his transport team of John Watts, John Bowis, and Lord Goschen safely across the road yesterday

from the zebra crossings' inception but the lollipop lady did not feature until 1954 and the passing of the School Crossing Patrol Act.

Transport Department statistics show that in 1926, when the car was not the common commodity of today, there were 4,856 deaths on the roads. Last year there were 3,621, about ten a day. In 1927 of those who died on the roads 2,774 were pedestrians, compared to 1,038 last year.

The cover of the Beatles' Abbey Road album ensured that the zebra crossing became immortalised. Tourists still stop the traffic as they strike the poses of the Fab Four to have their photograph taken on the crossing outside the Abbey Road recording studio in Maida Vale, north London.

Four transport ministers, led by Sir George Young, the Secretary of State, who marked the anniversary yesterday in similar vein,

stopped short of wearing the distinctive white suit like that worn by John Lennon, or taking their shoes off to mimic Paul McCartney. They also insisted on posing on the crossing near their Marsham Street offices in Westminster, rather than in Abbey Road.

The first attempt to modernise the zebra crossing failed. Panda crossings, where the road was marked in black and white triangles

and a push-button system activated a flashing amber light for motorists, were abandoned after a year in 1962.

The X crossing, where a white X told motorists they could proceed while a flashing green man told pedestrians it was safe to cross, was also found to be too confusing to drivers. In 1969 the pelican was devised using normal traffic lights.

However, because the zebra crossing is so flexible it

remains the most common form of crossing, with an estimated 11,000 in the United Kingdom.

One mother of six painted her own in 1972 to highlight the need for one at Darlington, Staffordshire, and was given a 12-month conditional discharge after being prosecuted under the Highways Act. Rag week students painted one across the M1 near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, in 1980 but were unpunished.

Record manpower shortfall for Army

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR accused the Government of "gross ministerial incompetence" yesterday after the latest official figures showed that the Army is short of 5,350 soldiers.

The record shortfall, announced by Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, in a written Commons answer, indicates that the Army's manpower crisis has not been resolved despite heavy advertising and promotion campaigns in the past 12 months.

A year ago the shortfall was 4,000 trained soldiers and 1,000 untrained soldiers. Since then, General Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General responsible for Army personnel, has mounted new recruiting drives to fill the gap. Yesterday's new figures

showed the overall shortage had risen by another 350.

A spokesman for the Army, however, said overall recruitment was up 35 per cent on last year. The pass rate for all recruits after attending initial training was also up 15 per cent on the same period.

Nevertheless, the latest figures indicate that the Army has failed to retain enough trained soldiers. By April 1 next year, the trained strength of the Army will have dropped to 101,000, including the Gurkha regiments, compared to the requirement of 104,000, Mr Soames said.

David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "It beggars belief that ministers have overseen such gross incompetence."

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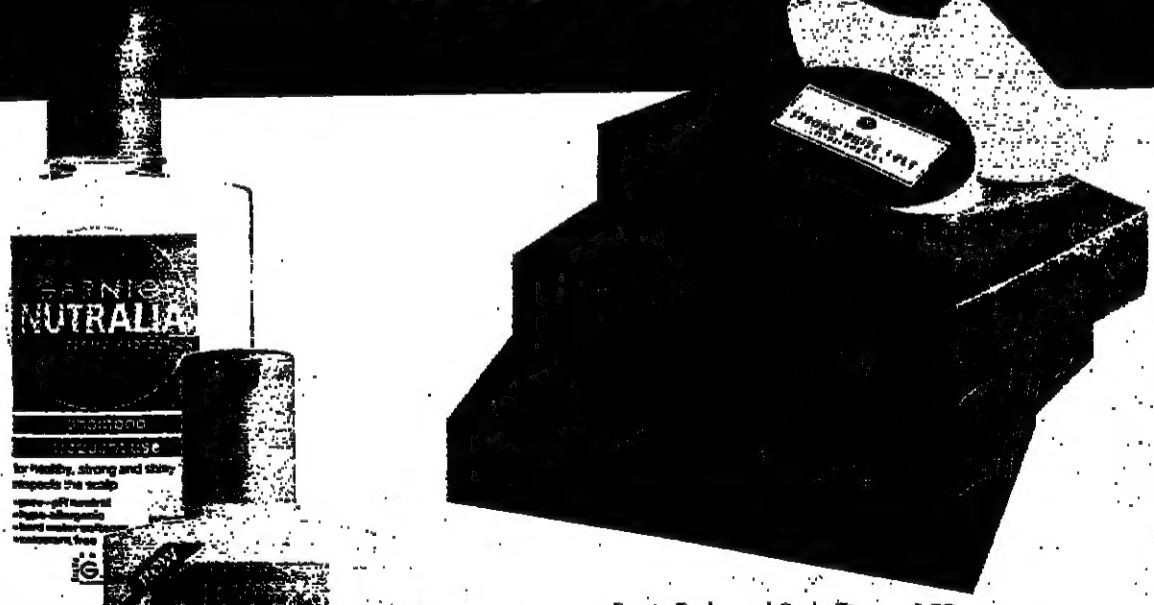
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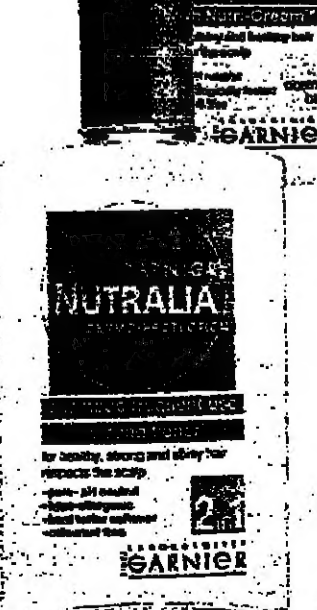
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Man who taught chapter and verse to Booker winners

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

A RETIRED English teacher reflected happily on his memories yesterday. Another of his old boys had done rather well. It was his second Booker Prize winner in four years.

Laurie Jagger, 71, taught Graham Swift, 47, whose novel *Last Orders* scooped this year's £20,000 prize, and Michael Ondaatje, 53, who received the 1992 award for *The English Patient*. Both were pupils at Dulwich College, which has also produced such eminent men of letters as P. G. Wodehouse, Raymond Chandler and C. S. Forester.

Mr Jagger spotted Swift's talent at an early age. On Swift's final school report before taking up an exhibition place at Cambridge, the teacher wrote: "A very skilled craftsman with words."

Yesterday Mr Jagger, who has retired to Shropshire and still corresponds with his former pupil, recalled: "I always worried that he wouldn't have anything to say even though he always said it beautifully. But clearly he does have something to say."

Mr Jagger, who taught at Dulwich College for 30 years and was head of English for 20 until 1980, added: "I am

delighted that he won. He was the most creative chap I ever taught. He wasn't very good at criticism — I remember he was unable to place Elizabethan and Jacobean lyrics in the right order — but no one could teach him about writing. He did parodies of Chaucer, which were perfect. He was very quiet always and so I made him play Cordelia when we did *King Lear*."

Mr Jagger is modest about his own role in nurturing talent, pointing to the importance of the huge number of scholarships available at Dulwich which attract the brightest boys from all backgrounds. "And in the English departments we had young teachers. I gave up when I was 58 but I think all teachers, especially English teachers, should be sacked at 50."

Graham Swift said of Mr Jagger: "He was an inspirational teacher without any of the rather evangelical connotations that that might have. He was quiet and gentle."

"My feelings about the school I went to are mixed as most people's are. If you go to an institution to be educated then institutionalisation occurs. It appears that Dulwich

has produced some writers but I don't think that's because Dulwich as an institution has any particular literary purpose or ambition. But I have certainly never forgotten Laurie Jagger."

Terry Walsh, secretary of the old boys' association, the Alley Club, said that the school's English teaching in the latter half of this century was shaped by Mr Jagger. "With him, creative writing came to the school before it was fashionable elsewhere. There are people who teach and a very few inspirational teachers. Laurie was one of those. He was a great encourager with tremendous enthusiasm."

Mr Jagger was insistent that he had done nothing for Ondaatje's literary career. He recalled: "I only remember him for cricket. He couldn't write sentences and showed no sign of creativity. That came later." Another Old



Laurie Jagger "was quiet, gentle and inspirational", Graham Swift said. "I have never forgotten him."

Alleyman whose cricket seemed to dwarf his literary leanings was P. G. Wodehouse. He used to knock off cricket articles for *Public School Magazine* after his prep. He said his six years at the college went like a breeze, and West Dulwich was immortalised as Valley Fields in his fiction.

His 1899 school report from

Gilkes, his headmaster, praised his interest in literature and said he often talked with enthusiasm but said: "I fear he has spent too much thought upon his cricket and the winning of colours. He is a most impractical boy — continually he does badly at examinations from lack of the proper books: he is most forgetful. He finds difficulties

in the most simple things and asks absurd questions, whereas he understands the more difficult things."

"He has the most distorted ideas about wit and humour: he draws over his books and examination papers in the most distressing way and writes foolish rhymes in other people's books. One is obliged to like him in spite of his

vagaries. If he perseveres, he will certainly succeed."

Raymond Chandler was also well remembered for his sporting prowess, excelling both at rugby and on the cricket field. In later life, he said he was able to write American detective stories only because he had a solid education in the classics at an English public school.

SATURDAY

IN THE TIMES



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Michael Ondaatje and Graham Swift followed in the steps of Wodehouse, Chandler and Forester

Party leaders back armistice silence

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major has joined Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown in backing the Royal British Legion's call for a nationwide two-minute silence at 11am on Armistice Day.

Large sections of Britain will come to a halt on Monday, November 11, to pay tribute to the sacrifice of the nation's war dead and injured. The broadcast media will be among thousands of organisations to observe the silence.

The Prime Minister said it was fitting, as the legion had recognised, that people should have the opportunity on Armistice Day "to remember and to resolve anew that the sacrifice of those who gave their lives shall not be in vain".

□ The German airline Lufthansa has put back a publicity launch in London scheduled for 11am on Armistice Day to 11.15 that day after protests from British war veterans.

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'Outrageous' Tory bias must end, say Labour peers

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

HEREDITARY peers saved the Government from defeat 66 times in the past year, Labour said yesterday in a new attack on Tory bias in the House of Lords.

Lord Richard, Shadow Leader of the Lords, said that the figures proved that there was an urgent need for reform. "I think this bias is politically unfair. I think it's constitutionally outrageous. I think it's historically anachronistic, and I think it has to be put right."

Labour has pledged to abolish the rights of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Lords and in the long term it is considering the setting up of an elected upper chamber. Their analysis shows that, out of 106 votes in the Lords in the last parliamentary session, the Government suffered only ten defeats. But more than two thirds of their victories were achieved with the help of hereditary peers.

In some cases the Tories were "ferrying peers in from their estates" to help to win a vote, Labour said. Some peers had hardly ever been in the Lords except in times of crisis, and even the longest serving clerks could not recognise them.

"The Tory working peers are bad enough at attending," Lord Richard said. "We know the Government is in crisis

when Lord Forte and Lord Hanson make a rare appearance and the Government is trying to avert a catastrophe when we see Lord Moore in the House. But when the long lost hereditaries arrive, we know we are likely to lose."

There are 466 Tory peers, 33 more than when Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979. In that time Labour's strength has fallen by 28 to 111.

The Labour benches have 15 hereditary peers, the Liberal Democrats have 24, the cross benches have 192 and the Tories have 320. Lord Richard said that on their past record the Tory hereditaries would try to thwart as much of Labour policy as they could. The last Labour government suffered an average 67 defeats a year.

"This demonstrates the outrageous advantages enjoyed by the Conservative Party in the House of Lords, whether in government or in opposition," he said. He highlighted several of the most controversial votes last year which were won by the Government only after the hereditary peers were whipped.

They included an amendment to prevent the Ministry of Defence from selling off the married quarters estates. After a three-line whip the Government managed to prevent the amendment by 236

votes to 176. Without the hereditary peers it would have lost.

"They won regardless of the merits of their arguments," Lord Richard said. "Some of their peers didn't even listen to all the debates before voting."

He promised that the next Labour government would introduce a bill to change the composition of the Lords, and warned hereditary peers that they would find it difficult to prevent their dismissal.

Under the Salisbury Convention, the Lords do not vote down any Government's election manifesto commitments. Lord Richard said: "They would be mad to overturn that and start using guerrilla tactics. It would provoke a major constitutional crisis."

Yesterday, government sources ridiculed Labour's attempt to discredit hereditary peers on the basis of their voting record. A senior peer said: "In a house where the majority of peers are hereditaries it's hardly surprising that they affect the votes. The Government is not the least bit embarrassed of its hereditaries. They work very hard."

The reason Labour have lost out on working peers is because they went through a period in the 1980s when they refused to put up any names. So it is sheer hypocrisy to complain now."



Lord Taylor outside Parliament yesterday with his wife, Kathie, their children Laura, left, and Alexandra, and his mother, Enid

Lords welcome the man Cheltenham rejected

BY ALICE THOMSON

JOHN TAYLOR became the first black Tory yesterday to take a seat in the Lords and said it was the "rainbow after the rain".

Four years ago he and his family suffered racial abuse after he was selected to stand as Tory parliamentary candidate in the party's Cheltenham stronghold. He had to cope with offensive letters and cartoons that circulated in the spa town and was defeated by the Liberal Democrats.

Yesterday Lord Taylor of Warwick

said that his introduction to the Lords had been as emotional as his wedding and the birth of his two daughters, Laura and Alexandra.

In his red robes and ermine, he soon had the measure of the oldest gentleman's club on the Thames. Peers from all sides shouted congratulations, the tea ladies knew his name and the barwoman was honoured to serve him. He had drinks with the Lord Chancellor but declined interviews with *Hellot* and the *Big Breakfast*.

At 43 Lord Taylor will be one of the youngest in the House and is already

dipped for front-bench job. A broadcaster and barrister, he wants to focus on morality, crime and education.

"There is no point in using this place as a club to smoke cigars," he said. "It is inevitable that people will talk about me as a black role model but it is dangerous to call me their spokesman. Most blacks want the same as whites. I see myself as one of the emerging middle-class Afro-Saxons. We are not going back. We can contribute. I speak for the silent majority of blacks who aren't muggers."

He said he was stunned when he

was approached by the Prime Minister at a garden party in Downing Street. "He asked how I would feel if he made me a working peer. I said that would be tremendous, thinking it would happen in the next ten years. But he said, 'No, John, it's going to happen in the next few weeks.' I was gobsmacked."

He added: "My late father was a professional cricketer for Warwickshire in the Forties and Fifties and it was his ambition for me to play at Lords — but I'm sure he would settle for this."

After-school clubs 'must pay their way'

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday announced its after-school club scheme to help single parents into work, making clear that it would not be state-funded.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, said that the running costs would be paid by parents and employers, with help from the National Lottery. She refused to promise any state funding, despite claims from pressure groups that the clubs would need at least £250 million in start-up costs in the first five years of a Labour government.

Under Labour's scheme, parents would pay up to £25 a week for a child to be supervised in schools or playcentres until 5.30pm. Activities such as sport, art and drama would be provided.

Ms Harman said that the charges would be on a sliding scale, according to ability to pay. The clubs would be available to all families, but single parents might benefit

most because fewer were in work at present.

"After-school clubs give mothers extra time in which they can work. This is vital for lone mothers who often need to work more than school hours to be better off than on benefits," Ms Harman said. "They also re-create as closely as possible the opportunities that children used to have to 'play out' safely."

Yesterday the Kids' Club Network, which has set up 3,400 after-school clubs, said that a further 10,000 would cost at least £250 million over five years. This would provide only two clubs for every three primary schools.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Treasury questions; questions to the Prime Minister; Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Bill; all day: backbench debate on British citizenship; in the Lords: Channel Tunnel (Rail Link) Bill, committee on recommendation; Regulations on open-ended investment companies.

Straw takes new line on knife ban

BY RICHARD FORD

LABOUR conceded yesterday that there are difficulties in producing the legal definition of a combat knife needed to ban such weapons.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, accepts that a specific ban would have too many loopholes and is calling instead for a more comprehensive ban with a system of exemptions.

Michael Howard has promised that the Government will ban combat knives if a workable definition can be found. Mr Straw and Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, have now written to him, suggesting the exemption system. They say: "The burden of proof that a knife or other weapon falls within an exemption would then lie on the defendant."

They also called for controls on mail-order sales of knives with names such as "Rainbow sidearm" and the "Validator".

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Magistrates' Association council divided over who should be elected to succeed outspoken leader JPs consider their verdict on law-and-order debate

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of the 29,000 magistrates in England and Wales are at odds over who is to become their new spokesman, at a time that law and order has become central to political debate. The council of the Magistrates' Association is to vote next month on who should succeed Rosemary Thomson, the most outspoken leader of the magistracy in recent years. Mrs Thomson has increased the public prominence of the association, regularly appearing on radio and television with criticisms of government criminal justice policy where JPs have thought it would not work.

The contest is being keenly watched by Home Office officials, some of whom would prefer the magistrates to have a less troublesome spokesman in the run-up to the general election. David Baker, honorary treasurer of the association for the past five years, and Anne Fuller, the deputy chairman, are the contenders for the post.

The 110 members of the council are



David Baker. Age 64. Career (of 39 years) in building societies. Was educated at Wolstanton County Grammar School, Newcastle-under-Lyme, in Staffordshire. Is married with two children, and grandchildren. Mr Baker has been a JP since 1970; member of the council of the Magistrates' Association since 1984. He sat on the sentencing guidelines committees of the association, and on other committees with government departments. Mr Baker chairs the Somerset Magistrates' Courts Committee, which handles appointments of JPs. He is also a member of the local police authority.



Anne Fuller. Age 60. Career since 1958 as market research executive — now freelance. She is married with three children. BA Hons (English), University of London: law diploma in child protection and senior course in criminology. Mrs Fuller has been a JP since 1975, and a member of the council of the Magistrates' Association since 1984. Member of all council committees and various committees with government departments. Deputy chairman of youth and family panels on the Kingston upon Thames bench. National co-ordinator for the Magistrates in the Community Project, promoting and teaching people about the work that JPs do.

Thomson's individual style of leadership and her outspokenness should be followed by a period of "taking stock", as Mr Baker puts it.

All agree that Mrs Thomson will be a hard act to follow. Neither candidate would lead from the front as much as Mrs Thomson, and both would delegate to the association's committee chairmen more of the task of speaking on behalf of the organisation. They are both likely to give government an easier time.

Mrs Fuller said: "Our first priority is to speak up for magistrates and to present their policy. Where that is different from government policy, we would say so. But it is not our role to criticise the Government and its stand — our policy is that of our members. Once something has become law, we would uphold it."

Mr Baker said: "I am keen on consistency of sentencing and guidelines to improve that. But I am not for lay magistrates giving their point of view on imprisonment or otherwise — that is a matter for the legislators and it is for us to keep within the ambit of the legislation."

keeping their cards close to their chests. But there is much behind-the-scenes lobbying in what is likely to be a close-run vote. One JP said: "Everyone is in huddles — the knives are out."

One camp favours fewer media appearances and a return to the days when magistrates had a minimal role in public

debate. Some would like to see a man in the job — not wishing the association to have its third consecutive woman leader, and someone who is not from the South East. Mr Baker is from Torquay, while Mrs Fuller, like Mrs Thomson, is from the Home Counties.

However, there are also those who

want to build on Mrs Thomson's work and take it forward. Mrs Fuller, they argue, is best fitted to do this and should be elected, regardless of gender or constituency.

Mrs Thomson herself is believed to favour Mrs Fuller, a member of the Kingston upon Thames bench in south

London since 1975 and chairman of its youth panel and in charge of betting licensing. The two women have worked closely for the past three years.

But Mr Baker, who is chairman of Somerset and South Avon branch as well as of the Taunton Deane bench, is supported by those who argue that Mrs

Students vote to boycott Bar scheme for trainee places

BY FRANCES GIBB

BAR students have voted to boycott the profession's first clearing house scheme which they say has left more than 1,000 of them without first-round offers of trainee places in chambers.

The first offers under the new scheme went out to Bar students last week. Some 365 students have attracted all 850 offers available, leaving about 1,400 students in limbo.

At the same time, the pupils' applications clearing house (PACH) is having administrative teething problems. There are reports of chambers not having received students' applications, or students receiving three letters from chambers to which they had not even applied.

Students are supposed to wait until the first round of offers for training places (pi-

pillages) has been taken up, after which the Bar Council would provide a list of remaining vacancies. But that list will not be available until November 25.

Students at the Inns of Court school of law (the Bar School) have voted to draw up their own list of vacancies and make their own applications, "cutting the Bar Council out of the equation", as one put it.

The students are reluctant to be named, fearing it would prejudice their chances of a place. One said: "Basically the Bar Council seems more concerned about saving its clearing scheme than our chances of finding a training place. We are being treated as guinea-pigs." They have no confidence that the Bar Council will be able to provide a full list of vacancies after the muddle-



A group of Bar students who are unhappy about the clearing house for trainees to find places in chambers. About 1,400 are in limbo

that have arisen. "The problem," one said, "is that they did not anticipate the huge number of applications there would be and the system just can't cope with it."

The Bar Council denied the system could not cope. Nigel Bastin, the Bar Council's head of education and training,

said: "By last week's deadline, there were 1,800 applications for 850 places. Within the week it was possible for us to turn around all the offers made by chambers to applicants in the first round."

The second round of offers had to be extended to give chambers time to work

through their shortlists, he added. After that, lists of places would be published and students would be free to approach chambers.

A Bar Council spokesman said it was not the solution for students to go "freelance". The new system was designed to be much fairer and to end the

old "law of the jungle" that prevailed, with students having to send off multiple applications and expending much time, money and effort in finding places.

He added: "It is easy to denounce the system on the basis of minimal teething problems but clearly if there

are any concerns they will be taken on board for next year." There was "huge demand" for the Bar which the profession could not restrict. "So this makes it all the more important to have some kind of systematic clearing house."

Law report, page 31

Euro 96 headlines were in 'bad taste'

JINGOISTIC headlines about the German football team during Euro 96 were "offensive and in bad taste", the Press Complaints Commission has said.

The Commission received 300 complaints from the public. It said that headlines such as "Achtung Surrender — For You Fritz Ze European Championship is Over" in the *Daily Mirror*, "Let's Blitz Fritz" in the *Sun* and "We Go — Bring On The Krauts" in the *Daily Star* had "significantly ... misjudged the public mood". But it said the headlines were "clearly not intended to incite prejudice directed at specific individuals on the ground of their race".

Members of the Commission agreed that there was no breach of the PCC's code on discrimination, but said they wanted to "place on record" their concern that editors had departed from a "proud tradition" of combining support for Britain's sportsmen and women with tolerance and fair play towards others.

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Trial was 'parody of justice'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

THERE was outrage across Hong Kong's political spectrum yesterday at the 11-year jail sentence imposed by a court in Peking on Wang Dan, the Chinese dissident.

Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party, which holds the most seats in the Legislative Council, said: "This is bad news for the people of Hong Kong... what Wang Dan has done is to say something which is the truth." Allen Lee, the Liberal Party chairman and member of the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee for establishing the post-1997 government, said: "The sentence is too much."

Chris Patten, the Governor, said the crimes for which Wang had been sentenced were "activities which in most places, including Hong Kong, would be entirely legal".

Amnesty International described Wang's trial as a parody of justice. "It is clear that the verdict and the sentence against him had been decided in advance," the London-based group said.



Wang Dan, the Chinese dissident who was jailed for 11 years in Peking yesterday

Leading Peking dissident Wang jailed for 11 years

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

WANG DAN, one of China's leading dissidents, was sentenced yesterday to 11 years' jail for conspiring to subvert the Communist Government. He is to appeal but observers said there was little likelihood of success.

Western diplomats said that with his conviction Peking had virtually crushed all political opposition at a time when Deng Xiaoping, 92, the paramount leader, lies ailing and the hardline Communist leadership has yet to grasp the reins of power. Wang, 51, a prominent student leader in the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square which was brutally crushed by the authorities, has been an outspoken critic of human rights abuses in China.

Wang, who had served almost four years' jail for his role in the Tiananmen movement, continued to speak out for democracy on his release from jail in 1993. He campaigned for political change and tolerance, writing essays critical of the Government that were published abroad. He helped other dissidents in

financial difficulties and accepted aid from overseas groups. The diplomats added that the alleged crimes he was convicted for would, in most countries, be considered normal political activity. The heavy sentence was also likely to cause dismay in Hong Kong, which returns to Chinese rule next year. Besides the 11-year sentence, Wang was deprived of his political rights for a further two years, the Xinhua news agency said. It took the three-judge panel, led by Cai Yue, a woman,

less than four hours to convict Wang. Although she declared the trial was "open, fair and legitimate", a heavy police cordon prevented foreign journalists from approaching Peking's Number One Intermediate People's Court.

Foreign observers from the United States, Canada, Chile and France were also not permitted to attend the trial. The verdict was delivered after a half-hour deliberation. Judge Cai remained expressionless throughout, said the dissident's father, Wang Xi-

angzeng, who attended the trial with his wife and oldest daughter.

"Not one witness was summoned," he said. "The judge did not uphold the justice and dignity of the law... how can writing articles constitute a crime?" he asked.

Judge Cai said Wang's writings showed that his aim was not merely to express his political views or voice opinions to the Government, as he had claimed, but were meant to mould public opinion for overthrowing the legitimate Government.

Xinhua alleged that Wang had colluded secretly with hostile overseas organisations, had slandered the Government and carried out activities aimed at endangering state security.

Later, Wang Xiangzeng said his son was innocent of any crime. "All that he has done was above board... for China's democracy."

The Wang conviction is a slap in the face for Western governments that appealed to Peking to improve its human rights record, diplomats said.



Wang's parents head for court in Peking yesterday

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Argentine army chief to visit

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE chief of the Argentine Army, who was held prisoner during the Falklands conflict in 1982, is due to arrive in Britain on Sunday for the highest-ranking official visit to London since the fighting.

The three-day visit of Lieutenant-General Martín Balza, Argentina's Chief of General Staff, is the latest and most significant official military contact between the two countries.

His visit, which will include a meeting with his British counterpart, General Sir Charles Guthrie, and a trip to Tidworth garrison in Hampshire, was announced yesterday as Rogelio Püfiter, Argentine Ambassador in London, appealed to the Government to lift the British arms embargo, which has been in place since 1982.

Señor Püfiter said: "We believe the arms embargo is unfair and increasingly anachronistic and we hope it will be lifted in time."

General Balza's visit follows allegations in a British television documentary that a former Argentine intelligence chief tried to acquire spare parts for Argentine naval frigates in breach of the embargo. Señor Püfiter denied the claims.

Bribe case adds to Rao woes

FROM REUTER
IN DELHI

INDIAN police indicted P.V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister, yesterday in a vote-buying case, hours after he appeared in court on forgery charges.

The indictment for bribery and the court appearance have clouded the legacy of the man who opened the nation's economy to foreign investment and trade. The Central Bureau of Investigation said it charged Mr Rao with conspiring to pay MPs from a regional party £62,000 to vote against a 1993 no-confidence motion, which Mr Rao's Congress Party narrowly won.

The bribery charges were also filed against two other Congress members, as well as four members of the regional Bharat Mukti Morcha Party. The former Prime Minister and his colleagues have denied any wrongdoing.

After weeks of legal manoeuvring, Mr Rao yesterday became the first former or serving Prime Minister to appear in court on criminal charges. He has denied claims that while he was Foreign Minister in 1989 he had the Indian consulate in New York authenticate what he knew were false documents aimed at defaming a political opponent.

Digital Terrestrial Television Advertisement of Multiplex Licences

The Independent Television Commission (ITC) is inviting applications for four licences to provide digital terrestrial television multiplex services. The licences are for those multiplexes other than the two which will carry the services of the BBC, Channels 3 and 4 and Teletext Ltd.

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Licensees will be authorised to broadcast those digital programme services and digital additional services which are themselves separately licensed. In the case of Multiplex A some capacity is reserved for Channel 5 and S4C Digital services. Services will be expected to be on-air, subject to international frequency clearances, not later than 1 July 1998.

The Invitation to Apply specifying the terms and conditions relating to the provision of digital terrestrial television multiplex services together with a draft licence, and supplementary documents including Guidance Notes for applicants for digital programme and digital additional services licences, is available from the Secretary to the Independent Television Commission, 33 Foley Street, London, W1P 7LB.

Applications addressed to the Secretary to the Commission giving information in the form specified in the Invitation to Apply document, together with the application fee of £100,000, should reach the ITC not later than noon on 31 January 1997.

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Socialists say spy stories are part of Right's dirty tricks campaign

MI6 gave Paris list of 300 suspected Cold War 'moles'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE, IN PARIS

MI6 gave the French secret service a list of some 300 French diplomats and foreign service officials suspected of being Communist spies during the Cold War, according to a French news report published yesterday.

The file containing the names of alleged traitors within the French foreign service was handed over by Britain in 1993 when Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, was Foreign Minister under the Gaullist Prime Minister, Édouard Balladur, *Le Monde* newspaper reported.

The British list of French "moles" said to have worked for East European countries was based on the flood of intelligence information to the West after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Many of those named in the secret list are now either long retired or dead, an expert in security affairs at the newspaper said, adding that the source of the report was "completely reliable".

The allegation that hundreds of French foreign service officials may have been recruited as Communist agents emerged amid a furor over a report claiming that the late Charles Hernu, French Foreign Minister between 1981 and 1985, spied for the KGB as well as the Bulgarian and Romanian secret services in the 1950s and 1960s.

Government MPs called for a full investigation into the spying allegations while opposition Socialists suggested the charges against Hernu in yesterday's *L'Express* magazine might be part of a ruse to blacken the former Socialist administration. The Government has refused to comment on the allegations. Jacques Fournier, the former head of French counter-intelligence, confirmed yesterday that the Bulgarian secret services had told France of Hernu's spying activities four years ago.

A close friend and political ally of François Mitterrand, the former President, Hernu died of a heart attack in 1990, five years after he resigned from the Defence Ministry.

M. Fournier said that the Bulgarian report detailing Hernu's activities could not be fully verified but had been handed to Mitterrand, who classified the report as a "state secret" since the dead man could not defend himself.

Jean-Michel Boucheron, a Socialist MP, suggested the allegations against Hernu might be "an operation conducted against the Left" at a time when the Gaullist Government is reeling from a series of corruption scandals.

"I am convinced this information did not come from the East but from France, and the question to be asked is if this leak got the green light from the Government or not," M. Boucheron said.

L'Express said the secret files did not explain whether Hernu had continued to work as a spy after becoming Defence Minister, but French espionage experts said that his was probably only one of many similar cases.

"For Socialist countries in the 1950s, France was considered the weak link in the West," Thierry Wolton, author of *The KGB in France*, said, adding that it was entirely possible that Hernu had severed all contact with his Communist "handlers" after 1963.

The "Hernu Affair" is France's most damaging spy scandal since Georges Piquès, the Nato press chief, was arrested in 1963 on charges of providing information to the Soviet Union. Piquès was sentenced to life imprisonment for treason but released in 1970.

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"I am convinced this information did not come from the East but from France, and the question to be asked is if this leak got the green light from the Government or not," M. Boucheron said.

L'Express said the secret files did not explain whether Hernu had continued to work as a spy after becoming Defence Minister, but French espionage experts said that his was probably only one of many similar cases.

"For Socialist countries in the 1950s, France was considered the weak link in the West," Thierry Wolton, author of *The KGB in France*, said, adding that it was entirely possible that Hernu had severed all contact with his Communist "handlers" after 1963.

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Adenauer record broken by Kohl

FROM ROBERT BOYES, IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, battered by criticism of his poor economic management, today becomes the longest-serving German Chancellor this century.

His disdain for the record, and his vulnerability, was underlined by his absence abroad yesterday during an emergency debate about the German budget; five Christian Democratic Union deputies in his entourage had to break off their Far East trip and hurry back to Bonn to secure the Government's narrow majority in parliament.

"When I start to worry about my place in history, I head for the refrigerator," he told a French paper. But his concern for his status may be greater than he pretends. The record which falls today is that of Konrad Adenauer, 5,144 days in office. If he survives the bumpy path to European monetary union, wins the 1998 election and stays fit, he could in 2001 topple the 19-year tenure of Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor.

The three men are already being talked about in the same breath by the German press. Bismarck unified Germany, Adenauer anchored West Germany in the Western alliance and laid the foundations of a democratic German state. Herr Kohl welded together the East and West German states and is the main driving force behind a united Europe.



Charles Hernu, right, with his friend and political ally, François Mitterrand

Heirlooms rescued from Vienna sale

BY ROGER BOYES

TWO seascapes and a porcelain dish were suddenly withdrawn yesterday from Christie's record-breaking auction of Jewish-owned art work after an elderly former Viennese resident recognised her family's property from the sale catalogue.

The last-minute claim from the woman, who now lives in Israel, cast a small shadow on the auction — which, on the first day raised £7.5 million on behalf of Jewish charities — as it again prompted the question of how thoroughly the Austrian authorities have been searching for owners.

The board of paintings, sculptures and antiques was taken from the Austrian Jewish community by the Nazis, sometimes confiscated after the Jews were arrested, sometimes in part payment for an exit visa.

After the war, the treasure trove was stored in the Mauerbach monastery outside Vienna. Pieces were lent to Austrian museums while the authorities set about halfheartedly searching for the true owners.

Only after considerable international pressure was a list of the stored artwork published, and then only in a small-circulation Austrian newspaper. A few hundred works were returned to owners, but the Austrian description of the looted property on sale as "ownerless" never seemed appropriate.

Holocaust survivors were among the bidders during the two-day sale which was due to end late last night. Some, such as Fran Lauffer, travelled from New York to enter the bidding for a single piece. In her case it was *In the Street* by the 19th-century artist Ludwig Knaut, one of the few paintings with an explicitly Jewish theme. Other Jews, too poor to enter the fray, watched in silence, clutching their catalogues.

His lawyer said he had taken offence at the book's "revelation of facts about his private life" including details concerning his schooldays when classmates nicknamed him "the little fat one", an affair with a Cuban student identified as "Sonia", and a testicle operation he had in Khartoum hospital. The court will rule on a ban today.

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'Carlos' tries to halt book

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE alleged international terrorist, "Carlos the Jackal", is seeking to halt a book which he claims is an invasion of his personal privacy and an infringement of his right to a fair trial.

Ulrich Ramirez Sanchez, 47, alias "Carlos", asked a Paris court on Tuesday to seize all copies of *Carlos - The Secret Networks of International Terrorism* by the French journalist Bernard Violet on the ground that it jeopardises his right to be presumed innocent and breaches France's strict privacy laws.

The Venezuelan-born self-styled revolutionary is accused of killing at least 83 people in a series of terrorist attacks in Europe and the Middle East. He was captured in Sudan in 1994.

His lawyer said he had taken offence at the book's "revelation of facts about his private life" including details concerning his schooldays when classmates nicknamed him "the little fat one", an affair with a Cuban student identified as "Sonia", and a testicle operation he had in Khartoum hospital. The court will rule on a ban today.



Vow to avenge Tutsi deaths

War draws closer as Rwanda troops move into Zaire

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIGALI

RWANDA is on the verge of war with Zaire after it sent commandos across the Ruzizi River into Bukavu.

The Government said that it was close to ordering a larger retaliation against an alliance of Rwanda's former armed forces, Hutu extremist militia, and Zaire's army.

Major-General Paul Kagame, the Rwandan Vice-President and Minister of Defence, who led Tutsi rebels to victory against the Hutu supremacist regime in 1994, sent the troops into Zaire after the Rwandan border town of Cyangugu was shelled.

"If some one slaps me in the face I may not hit back in the face. But somewhere else will be hit. There's no question about it," General Kagame said. In statements which brought Rwanda to the brink of war with its neighbour, he described Hutu refugee camps inside Zaire as "barracks" where people who had exported the ideology of genocide were trying to "cleanse" the region of Tutsis to have a base for attacks against Rwanda.

"They have had the freedom to train, arm themselves and kill. If they consistently kill

people I can't see why they should not be killed themselves," the former guerrilla leader said.

Several thousand ethnic Tutsis, whose forbears have lived in Zaire for centuries, were murdered earlier this year near Goma in North Kivu province by Zairean soldiers and Rwandan Hutu refugee militiamen. Last month, Tutsis living in South Kivu were ordered to leave by Zaire's local authorities who threatened to hunt them down as rebels.

Incensed by what he described as plans to continue the genocide of Tutsis which began in Rwanda with the slaughter of a million in 1994, General Kagame said the time

was close when he would order an invasion of Zaire to pre-empt an attack on Rwanda.

The Rwandan commandos who infiltrated Bukavu were ordered to drive Zairean soldiers and their Hutu allies from the border area, from where they launched mortar attacks on Rwandan army positions and civilian areas. Their involvement in Bukavu is likely to bring South Kivu's provincial capital closer to collapse, with Tutsi rebels moving in from the south sending their enemies scuttling into shanties on the city's outskirts.

Rebel uprisings in North and South Kivu have created a massive humanitarian crisis in eastern Zaire affecting more than a million Hutu refugees. About 400,000 are now concentrated in Mugunga camp, near Goma, which has been the main base for the defeated Hutu army in exile.

□ Kinshasa: Mgr Christophe Munzihirwa, Jesuit Archbishop of Bukavu, was killed after being caught in an ambush in the town on Tuesday night, a Zairean church official said yesterday. (AFP)



Scarred UN picks envoy amid fears of 'a second Congo'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE ethnic conflict in Central Africa has diplomats and officials at United Nations headquarters giving dark warnings of a "Congo II". Experts on the Great Lakes area fear the fighting in eastern Zaire could fuel separatist violence in other provinces and lead to the country's collapse.

Yesterday the UN named Raymond Christen, the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, to head a one-month mission to secure a Zaire

confess and set up a regional peace conference. The Canadian Prime Minister's nephew, he served in 1978-81 as Ottawa's envoy to Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda.

The eastern Zaire fighting is a knock-on from the Tutsi-Hutu conflict that led to genocide in Rwanda in 1994 and this year's Burundi coup.

The Tutsi people, cattle-herders who migrated south along the Rift Valley four centuries ago, make up a minority of about 15 per cent of the population in both Rwanda and Burundi but dominate the Hutu majority.

Tutsis have also lived for centuries in the North Kivu region of Zaire and in the Mulenge mountains in neighbouring South Kivu.

It is feared that the conflict will spread to the mineral-rich Shaba province, formerly Katanga — the very area that tried to secede from the Congo on independence from Belgium in the early 1960s. Then scores of UN peacekeepers were killed, leaving deep scars on the organisation.

"It will be just like the Congo crisis, except the UN won't be there," one UN official said yesterday.



The image of a mythical being, loosely based on a seahorse, first appeared in rock paintings 6,000 years ago

Rainbow Serpent of Aborigines 'is the oldest religious symbol'

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

AUSTRALIAN Aborigines have the longest-established religious beliefs in the world, according to a new analysis of rock paintings by archaeologists.

An image of a mythical being called the Rainbow Serpent, loosely based on the seahorse family, first appeared in such paintings 6,000 years ago, they claim. Today, Aborigines regard it as a symbol of unity, creation and destruction, and the core of a spiritual system that tells of the creation of the world out of chaos.

Drs Paul Tacon, of the Australian Museum in Sydney, Christopher Chippindale, of Cambridge University, and Meredith Wilson, of the Australian National University in Canberra, argue that it was a religious icon from the beginning, making it the oldest religious symbol.

Writing in *Archaeology in Oceania*, they base their con-

clusions on a statistical analysis of 107 Rainbow Serpent paintings scattered across Australia, but commonest in Arnhem Land in the north-west of the country. They believe that the first images were inspired by sightings of the ribboned pipefish, *Haliichthys taeniosphora*, a type

of seahorse. The analysis shows that the style of the paintings appeared fully formed from the beginning. They show a snake-like body, curved horse-like head, a spiked tail, and appendages. The paintings tend to be shaded with cross-hatching, said by tribal elders to confer

sacredness to the images. Over the millennia, some changes have taken place, including an increase in size, but the key characteristics have remained the same. If the serpent has indeed been a religious symbol for all this time, "it is much older than the major components of religious and spiritual belief systems found elsewhere in the world", Dr Tacon told *New Scientist*.

Dr Chippindale said that in the past experts had to guess what each image meant to the people who created it. "What is unusual here is that there is a continuity of rock art right up to the present time in Arnhem Land. Therefore, one can have insights... from the present."

The first images may have been made by Aborigines living inland at the end of the last glaciation, when the sea rose as the ice melted. The effect would have been to create new coastlines inland on which the seahorse would have been washed up.



A rock painting of the Rainbow Serpent in Arnhem Land, northwest Australia. Alongside is a 10cm scale

Apartheid assassin jailed for 212 years

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

EUGENE DE KOCK, the former police colonel who described himself as apartheid's most effective assassin, was yesterday sentenced to 212 years' imprisonment, including two life sentences, after a 21-month trial that has gripped South Africa with its exposure of shocking details of the "secret war" against the former white regime's opponents.

As Judge Willem van der Merwe passed sentence on 89 counts, gasps and mocking laughter rippled through the packed gallery. Speaking sombrely in Afrikaans, the white judge slowly read out the sentences of two life terms for murder and conspiracy to murder, five 20-year terms on five murder counts and between two and 20 years on each of the 83 lesser counts. He is the highest-ranking officer to be convicted for crimes committed in the apartheid era.

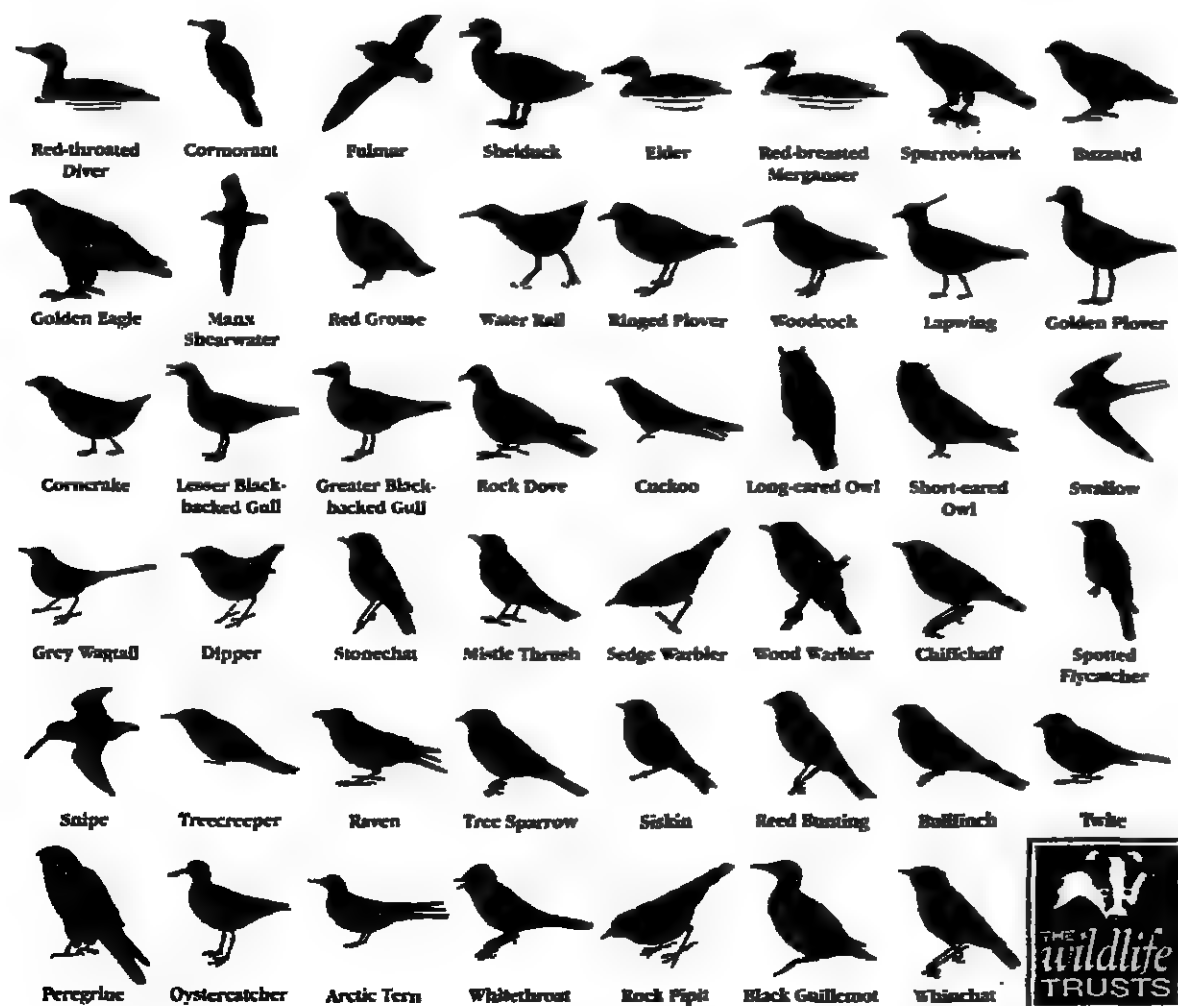
De Kock's defence had argued in mitigation that he had been following orders that came from the highest level. During his testimony de Kock implicated F.W. de Klerk and P.W. Botha, the former Presidents, in "dirty tricks" operations. However, his lawyers said he was unlikely to appeal.

The sentence was welcomed in an official ANC statement and by human rights lawyers. The ruling may go some way to restoring faith in the judicial system after an outcry over the acquittal of General Magnus Malan, the former Defence Minister, on murder charges recently.



De Kock's lawyers say he is unlikely to appeal

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Taleban bombers aim to destroy Masood morale

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN THE PANJSHIR VALLEY

TALEBAN planes dropped cluster bombs deep in the Panjshir Valley stronghold of Ahmed Shah Masood, the commander of the forces besieging northern Kabul, it was claimed yesterday.

Although audacious, the raid was little more than symbolic. It was well out of the reach of General Masood's anti-aircraft batteries, which have been ferried by helicopter to the valley's highest peaks, and there was just one casualty.

It has, nonetheless, served as something of a propaganda coup for the Taleban zealots, who have been broadcasting "We are going to push you back to the Panjshir" over General Masood's radio frequencies in an attempt to damage his fighters' morale.

Apart from sporadic fire from tanks, artillery and rocket launchers, the fighting on the two northern roads into Kabul has settled down into

an Afghan version of a phoney war. Taleban warplanes, however, continued to bomb the towns of Charikar and Jaber-e-Siraj, provoking a cascade of anti-aircraft fire from all over the Hindu Kush. But, in reality, the front lines have moved little.

As a huge red dust cloud welled over the plain to the north of the city, more and more fighters with General Masood and his northern ally, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, were being moved into position for a renewed assault on Taleban strongholds in the Safi Mountains.

After exaggerated claims over Sunday's assault, elements in General Masood's camp now acknowledge that their advance has been stymied by stiff Taleban resistance. Whatever people in Kabul think of Taleban, its fighting ability should not be underestimated. In common with other messianic move-

ments throughout history, Taleban believes it is in possession of the truth. Moreover, the young men see themselves as the custodians of that truth. Such unshakeable conviction has turned them into fanatical fighters.

Having been stopped in their attempt to take control of the capital, the Masood-Dostum alliance appears in no hurry to repeat earlier mistakes. "Time," one senior Masood aide said, "is on our side."

Preparations are clearly under way for a far greater aerial bombardment than that which took place on Sunday. Last night, 20 flatbed lorries were moving in convoy to Bagram air base to collect large quantities of bombs for the Dostum air force.

"We make a deal," a Masood spokesman said. "We have bombs but no planes. Dostum has planes but no bombs." Activity could be



A soldier of the anti-Taleban alliance carries tank ammunition along a path after the road through the Panjshir Valley was blown up

observed on the road leading to the Panjshir Valley. It was dynamited shortly after Taleban pushed north last month, and has still not been repaired. The only route out now is by foot, along a

precarious precipice above the river. Substantial quantities of armaments are presently being trucked to the Panjshir from General Masood's arms dumps in the north, carried over the narrow precipice by

hand, and then transported to the front lines.

During our five-hour journey up the Panjshir, we also visited the prison where General Masood has incarcerated Pakistani nationals who have

played a leading role in financing, organising and leading the Taleban uprising.

One prisoner, who identified himself only as Khalid, 22, said that many Taleban guerrillas had received three or

four months' military training in Pakistan before returning to Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. "The Pakistan Government has helped to train fighters for the Afghanistan conflict," he said.

Crackdown on women's rights leaves aid agencies split on Kabul pullout

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

AID agencies in Afghanistan are divided over whether to quit or stay. Their dilemma centres on two questions: does their work assist the repressive Taleban theocracy? Does it absolve Taleban of responsibility for its calculated impoverishment of women?

Oxfam has suspended its Kabul operations until women are allowed to work, putting it in the lead of the protest movement. Its stand is criticised by other aid agencies that believe in accommodating the Taleban regime in the hope that it will become less repressive.

There are signs, however, that big donors are questioning the propriety of aid programmes that could reinforce Taleban's extremist dogma.

Sue Emmott, Afghanistan representative for Oxfam, said yesterday: "Our pro-

grammes will stay suspended until our Afghan women employees are allowed to return to work. There has been too much accommodation, too quickly, with the Taleban authorities. We are shocked that aid organisations have acquiesced like this."

After three days of discus-

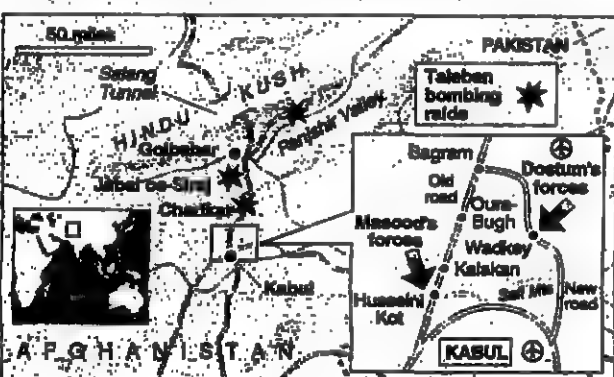
sion last month, aid groups in Kabul enshrined their soft-soled approach in a policy paper that many now regard as too timid. It was handed to Taleban in the hope that the issues raised would be tackled within a fortnight; it was ignored.

The paper said aid groups

"respectfully request that the authorities in Kabul act with all possible urgency" on the issue of female rights. Attempts to revise and toughen this wording failed in a meeting of aid workers this week. Some argued that aid organisations should not become involved in politics.

"Most aid organisations are going soft on the women's issue," Ross Everson, of ACBAR, the Kabul-based co-ordinating body for foreign aid agencies, said. "I have been trying to persuade them to put some backbone into this issue... The present approach is gutless."

Ms Emmott said Kabul's women had been allowed to work for 50 years, and without women the city could not function. The civil service, hospitals and schools depended on them.



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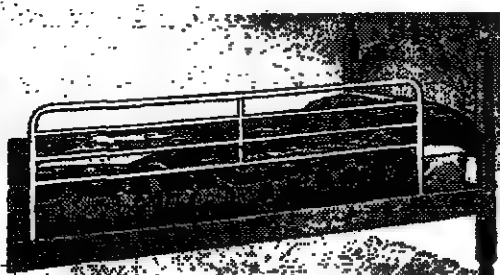
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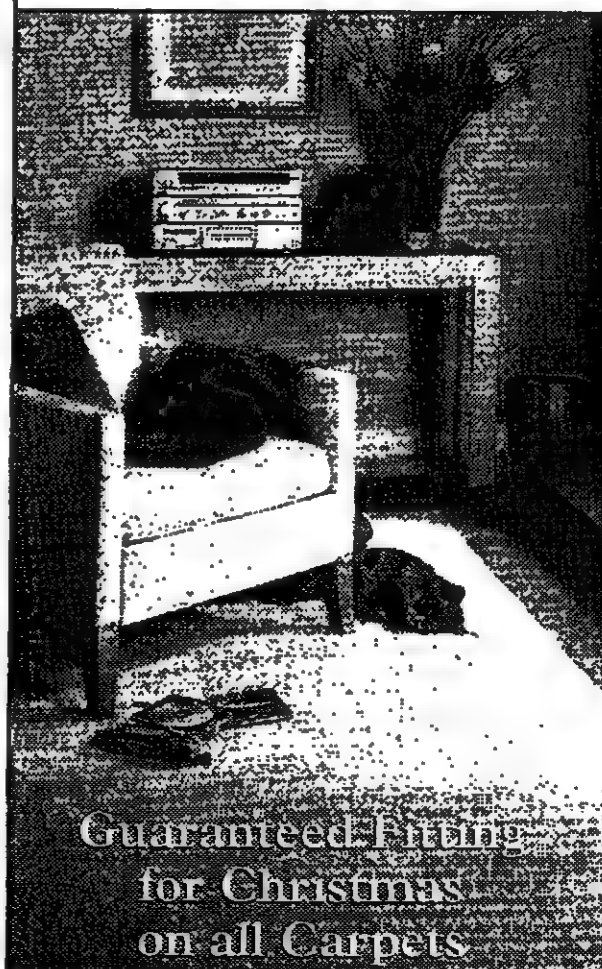


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Fears of Arab-Israeli 'holocaust' as streets of ancient Hebron seethe with hate

Shin Bet demands curbs on militant Jewish settlers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HEBRON

ISRAEL'S Shin Bet security service yesterday demanded restraining orders on dozens of right-wing Jewish militants as fears grew that Hebron could provide the spark to ignite a new Middle East war.

Earlier, the head of the Likud parliamentary faction of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, gave a warning of a "holocaust" unless the Government acted against Jewish hardliners in the city who still openly identify with Baruch Goldstein, the Brooklyn-born Jew who massacred 29 Hebron Arabs in 1994.

A few hours spent walking in Hebron's hate-filled streets are enough to convince an outsider that the fears are well-founded. Apocalyptic predictions seem to be the only thing on which the city's Arabs and Jews agree.

"If the Israelis pull out, the

Jewish settlers will soon be using their guns," said a diplomat who toured with me. "And if the Israelis stay put, Palestinians here and in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza will explode."

Although 20,000 right-wing Jews gathered in Jerusalem on Tuesday in an attempt to persuade Mr Netanyahu to renege on the commitment given by the previous Labour Government to hand 85 per cent of Hebron to PLO control, few of the 450 Jews living in its centre, cheek-by-jowl with 120,000 hostile Palestinians, believe he will.

Nadia Matar, leader of the right-wing Women in Green, highlighted the angst that negotiating a pull-out has posed for Mr Netanyahu: his own brother-in-law this week moved to join the Jews here in a powerful gesture of solidarity.

He who forsakes Hebron forsakes not only the security of the residents of Hebron but also 4,000 years of Jewish history," Ms Matar quoted the Prime Minister as pledging. "These words you said at Passover last year. We chose you because your intentions were desirable — but now the testing time comes."

A noted hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism as well as Jewish extremism, Hebron — the last of the seven West Bank towns still occupied by Israeli troops — has long been a flashpoint between Arabs and Jews because of the Cave of Machpelah, or Tomb of the Patriarchs.

Apart from the militancy of activists on both sides of the ethnic divide, it is the presence of Jewish settlers in the heart of the city that has made Hebron a thorn in the side of peace negotiations. A further 6,000 live in Kiryat Arba, a fortress-style settlement on the outskirts that is less vulnerable to attack.

Noam Arnon, leader of the new settlers' militia busy stockpiling arms in preparation for the expected Israeli pullback, explained his fears. "Once the PLO terrorists are in control of those buildings," he said, pointing to flat-roofed Arab houses hugging the hillside opposite his settlement of Beit Hadassah, "what is to stop them firing RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades] straight into our windows?"

Inside Beit Hadassah, also home to a museum in memory



An Israeli soldier searches detained Palestinians in Hebron, a focus of Jewish-Arab tensions, for weapons

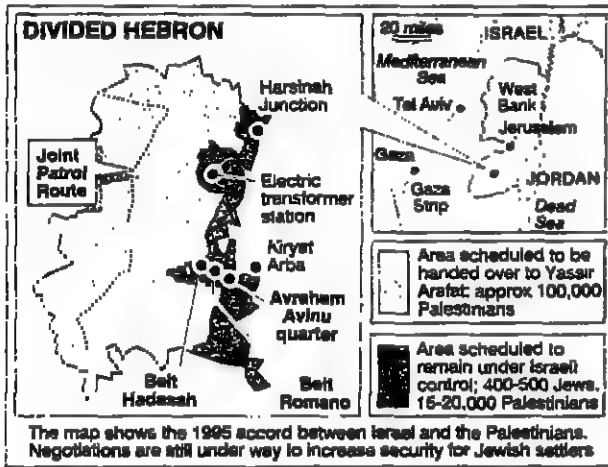
City of bloodshed and piety

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

HEBRON has long been characterised by a mix of holiness and violence. One of the four holy cities of Judaism because of its links to the biblical patriarchs and King David, it is also holy to Islam, which reveres Abraham as a precursor of Muhammad.

Some key dates are:
 1800 BC: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob buried in Cave of Machpelah — Tomb of the Patriarchs.
 586 BC: Most Jews exiled after destruction of First Temple. Edomites take over.
 400-500 AD: Byzantine church built over the Cave.
 635-1000: Arabs conquer and rule the city. Makhpelah church turned into mosque.
 1266: Decree, enforced through to the 20th century, bans Jews from the Cave.
 1918: British capture Hebron from Turks. Jewish presence recovers to 700 by 1929.
 August 24, 1929: 67 Jews slaughtered by Arabs; rest of the community evacuated.
 1967: Israel captures city from Jordan in Six-Day War.

1968: Group of Jewish settlers posing as Swiss tourists move into Park Hotel. Moved by authorities to Civil Administration compound which becomes Kiryat Arba.
 1979: Group of Kiryat Arba women barricade themselves in Beit Hadassah, abandoned Jewish clinic in downtown Hebron.
 1994: Baruch Goldstein, a Kiryat Arba resident, massacres 29 Muslims at prayer.
 March 1996: Original scheduled date for Israeli army handover of 85 per cent of Hebron to PLO control.



Britain pledges more aid to Palestinians

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN promised a further £13 million in aid to the Palestinians yesterday, four days before Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, arrives in Israel to urge both sides to redouble their efforts to reach agreement.

The aid is to help to meet the Palestinian budgetary deficit which has worsened because of recent Israeli border closures. Britain and the European Union are the main providers of funds to the Palestinian Authority, and are increasingly concerned about the situation there and in the occupied territories.

The timing of the announcement will not be particularly welcome in Israel, which is suspicious of European sup-

port for Yasser Arafat. It follows an outspoken attack by Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, on Israel for its harassment of the United Nations Refugee Welfare Association (UNRWA), the agency which provides food and education for Palestinian refugees.

Lady Chalker demanded that Israel should urgently ease the passage of aid personnel, food, medical supplies and development assistance in the occupied territories.

Mr Rifkind will meet Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, on Sunday before travelling to Gaza to see a British aid project and have talks with Mr Arafat.

NEWS IN BRIEF

French to sign Royal Navy pact

BRITAIN and France are to sign a military agreement that will draw their navies closer together in future operations (Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, writes).

The political framework to be signed next month by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, and Charles Milon, his French counterpart, could lead to the Royal Navy and the French Navy sharing patrol responsibilities in conflict or peacekeeping missions.

However, the "Letter of Intent", which is to be signed in Bordeaux on November 8, will not include nuclear submarines.

Japan backs end to ivory ban

Tokyo: Environmental groups have attacked Japan, the world's biggest consumer of ivory, for supporting African nations' demand for an end to the international ivory trade ban (Robert Whyman writes). Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, made the promise to President Nujoma, the visiting Namibian leader, who said that African elephants could no longer be regarded as endangered.

Swiss join up

Zurich: Traditionally neutral Switzerland has announced that it would join Nato's Partnership for Peace programme in an attempt to promote security in post-Cold War Europe. (Reuters)

Pope for Cuba

Formal agreement has been reached for the Pope to make a first visit to Cuba, ending a six-year stalemate. No date has been set, but he may meet President Castro in Rome next month at a UN food summit.

Abortion boost

Cape Town: The South African National Assembly approved a Bill allowing state-funded abortion on demand. The Bill will go to the Senate next week, where it is certain to be passed. (Reuters)

Eyes 'stolen'

Cairo: The mortuary director of a public hospital in the Egyptian capital has been arrested for removing eyes from corpses and selling them for transplants. al-Akhar newspaper reported. (AFP)

Wheel manners

New York: Two gunmen held up the Tavern on the Green, a noted restaurant, taking \$200. When they left, the police doorman said goodnight and hailed them a taxi. They robbed the taxi driver too. (AP)

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Parties neck-and-neck in polls

Fight for Congress turns main contest into a sideshow

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WITH six days left, the race for the White House may be petering out but the battle for Congress is becoming one of the tightest ever.

The number of Senate contests that are too close to call is increasing while either party could control the House of Representatives. Four political analysts consulted by *The Wall Street Journal* said there was a 20 to 40 per cent chance of the Republicans losing the Senate, and a 25 to 50 per cent chance of them losing the House. One, Charles Cook, said he had "never seen a wider or more diverse range of possible outcomes".

Of the 34 Senate seats being contested, 19 are held by the Republicans and 15 by the Democrats who need a net gain of three to take control. Latest polls show their candidates moving ahead of Larry Pressler, the Republican senator, in South Dakota and closing within two points in Colorado where a Republican is retiring from the Senate. The races for Republican-held seats in New Hampshire, Oregon and Maine could go either way and the Democrats have an outside chance of winning Bob Dole's old Kansas seat or Jesse Helms's in North Carolina.

The Democratic candidate is rebounding in Alabama, a seat the party had resigned themselves to losing. But Republican candidates are catching up in the Democrat-held states of Montana, Nebraska and Georgia, and remain

virtually neck-and-neck in Arkansas and New Jersey. In Massachusetts, John Kerry, the Democratic incumbent, has a narrow lead over William Weld, the Republican Governor.

Both parties are now pouring resources into the congressional races having concluded that the presidential contest is all but over. Republican officials are begging the television networks not to declare the presidential result too early on Tuesday night lest West Coast

10.20pm because the alternative, Dulles, is 30 miles from his Watergate apartment.

The presidential election is frequently relegated to second or third item on the evening news and the lack of excitement was summed up by *The Washington Post's* tepid endorsement of Mr Clinton yesterday. "The choice for president this year is pretty bleak. Frequently the strongest single argument for either candidate is that he's not the other. In the end, we lean towards Mr Clinton," the newspaper said.

Today or tomorrow Mr Clinton will seek to bridge the only obvious pitfall on his road to re-election by giving a speech calling for campaign finance reform. Over the past three weeks he has been battered by claims that his party solicited huge illegal contributions from Indonesia, South Korea and Taiwan in return for political favours.

But for the most part his speeches are bland and safe and he refuses to respond to Mr Dole's "serial failing", as the White House has dubbed his increasingly strident attacks. On Tuesday the President gave a rare glimpse of his confidence when some Republicans in Ohio heckled his speech. "I bet they won't be doing that a week from today," he declared.

One Clinton adviser quoted in *The New York Times* compared the election to a dinner party that had gone on an hour too long.



Republicans decide to stay at home and hurt their congressional candidates.

Four years ago Mr Clinton had talked himself hoarse by this stage and was campaigning almost round the clock. This year, he and Mr Dole spent Tuesday night not in some battleground state but in Washington. Mr Dole actually rushed through his final engagement in California, the state on which he is supposedly banking for victory, in order to get home before the capital's National airport closed at



Air mail: a selection of the US Postal Service stamps released this week featuring classic American aircraft

Right's 'Top Gun' goes into a spin

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN GARDEN GROVE, ORANGE COUNTY

WHETHER or not Bob "B" Dornan goes down in flames on election day, he will risk more than his political hide soon afterwards. The only congressman to boast of having flown every warplane in NATO's arsenal has accepted an invitation to perform aerobatics over Texas in an old British Hawker Hunter jet.

The objective is to put in some cockpit practice while boosting the sagging spirits of "Top Gun" pilots at a time of defence cutbacks. "It's terrific for the morale of aircrews to see a middle-aged congressman go up and put his life on the line," Mr Dornan, 63, told *The Times* in an interview that could have taken place at the height of the Cold War.

Over the roar of nearby freeways, this

former test pilot and firebrand of the hard Right introduced the beleaguered Bob Dole on Monday to a thin crowd gathered outside the home of an ice-hockey team called the Mighty Ducks. It was hard to know who risked more: Mr Dole, appearing at an unfortunately named site with a figure whom pollsters say strikes fear into the hearts of crucial "soccer mom" voters; Mr Dornan, backing Mr Dole even as other Republicans desert him; or Bo Derek, the actress and occasional lingerie model who joined both men on the podium.

He exudes a blustery charm, but eight months after a doomed run for the Republican presidential nomination, Mr Dornan is fighting for his political life in the traditionally conservative heart of Orange County. After nine terms in Congress, the man who likes to be thought of as President Clinton's harshest critic is running neck-and-neck with a 36-year-old Hispanic woman.

His Garden Grove district is a place of no-frills shopping malls and a glass cathedral from where one of America's richest televangelists broadcasts *The Hour of Power*. Its 49 per cent Latino population has not warmed to Mr Dornan's frequent tirades against illegal immigration.

Golf no handicap for top earners

BY GILES WHITTELL

KNOCKING a little white ball about has surpassed both Hollywood and Las Vegas in earning potential, according to an unofficial audit of the very rich. The survey, by *People* magazine, indicates that nobody outside the world's main financial markets has ever earned so much and so fast as Tiger Woods, the young golfer who turned professional this month.

Even Tom Cruise, who will make \$60 million (£30.5 million) as star and producer of *Mission Impossible*, cannot match the speed with which the 20-year-old Woods earned a similar sum in endorsement money the instant he stopped being a mere Stanford University student. Cruise's earnings from the hit film will earn \$54,807 a week in interest. Woods has topped that with \$734,794 in prize money since October 20.

Michael Jordan, the basketball player, for years America's best-paid sportsman, is a slouch next to golf's new wunderkind. He received just \$40 million in endorsements for the whole year, though his \$25 million playing fee adds nearly \$7,000 for every minute he spends on court.

Television remains a worthwhile profession for performers. Oprah Winfrey will take home \$97 million this year. Men still earn more than women in the movies, but they are trounced on the carwash. The nation's top male model is paid \$550,000 a year while Cindy Crawford makes up to \$9 million annually.

Comparisons are invidious, but revealing. David Hasselhoff, star of *Baywatch*, banks \$100,000 for each episode. A real Santa Monica lifeguard earns \$40,000 a year.

Dole finds traditional vote is drying up in Arizona

FROM TOM RHODES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

MARION MURRAY, 56, has voted Republican all her life but today she will join the opposition as a key organiser for President Clinton's final rally in the unlikely battleground of the Arizona desert.

When America goes to the polls on Tuesday, Ms Murray may provide the most telling example of why he could become the first Democrat since 1948 to secure this traditionally conservative state.

She is disenchanted by the Republican revolution of Newt Gingrich, the increasing power of the religious Right, extensive corruption in Arizona's state government and Bob Dole's inability to confront the important issues of education and healthcare.

Two weeks ago, Ms Murray became the co-ordinator of a new grassroots alliance in Arizona: Republican Women for Clinton-Care. Hundreds of women have apparently flocked to the cause.

Women like Ms Murray form the largest swing vote here this year and offer Mr Clinton a chance to break the longest losing streak in US

political history. A Democratic campaign headquarters in Phoenix would normally be a ghost town by late October. Yesterday, dozens of volunteers scurried in preparation for the presidential visit to Arizona State University this morning.

Doug Wilson, who is state director of the Clinton campaign, said changing demographics in Arizona, victory in the Republican primary for Steve Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, and Mr



Dole: suffering a dearth of support in the desert

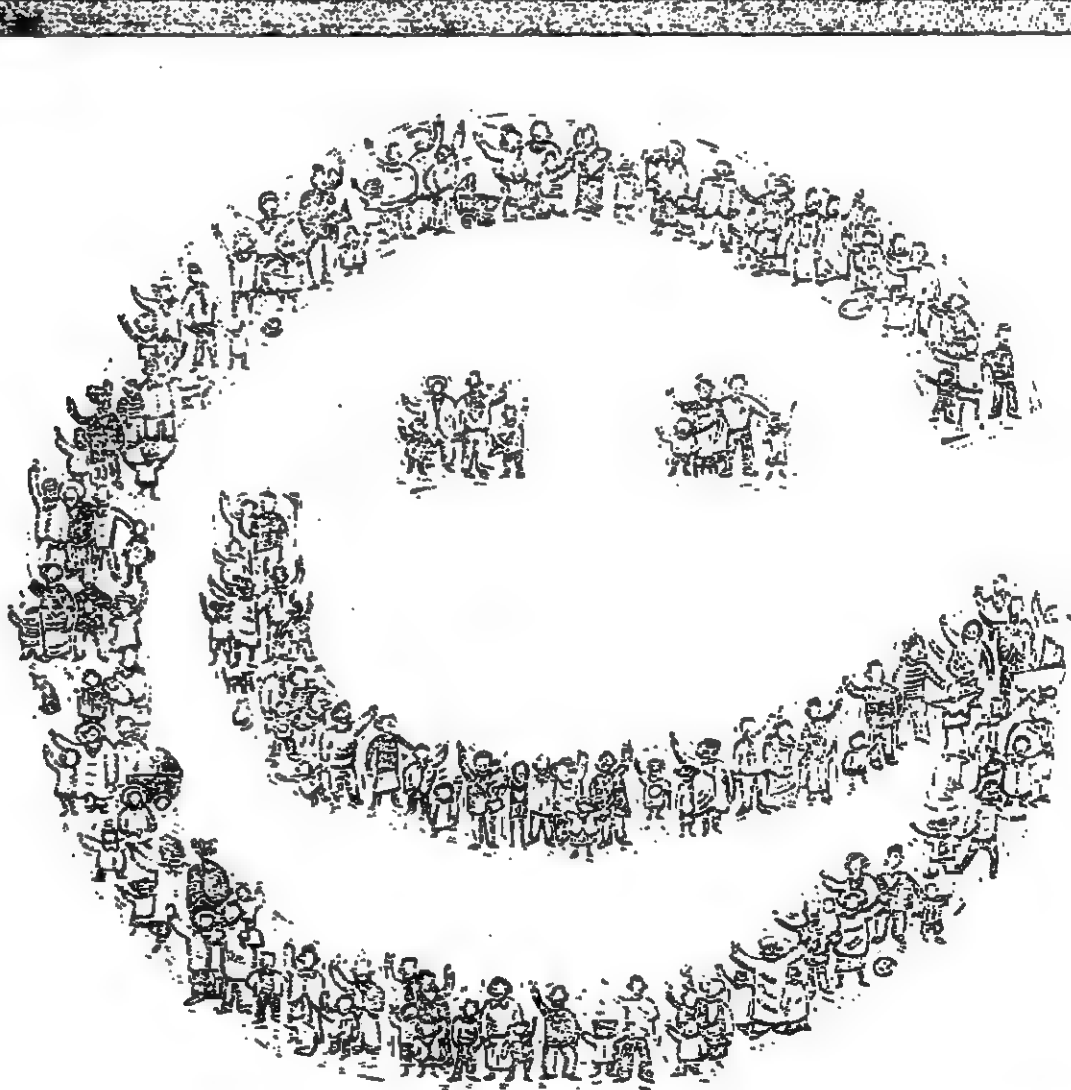
Dole's inability, at 73, to tempt many in the burgeoning retirement communities could prove the key to the Democrats' good fortune in 1996.

The desert republic is one of the fastest growing states. The traditional model of Sun Belt Republicanism that had attracted conservative migrants since the 1950s now lures families from California and the North-East who are increasingly unattached to either political party.

Although Arizona represents only eight electoral college votes, Republicans are determined Mr Clinton should not shatter its importance as a conservative stronghold.

Mr Dole returns to Phoenix on Monday in an eleventh-hour attempt to ensure victory. His party is spending \$446,000 on mail ballots and get-out-the-vote phone banks. Yet closest aides are not entirely confident.

"There's a lot wrong with the picture," said Mike Mellon, a state committee member. "I think Dole is going to win, but it shouldn't be this hard."



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Editor who suffered for her art

FOR THE past 11 years, the woman with the worst job in the civilised world has been a soft-spoken, bespectacled book editor called Jane Turner. To her, during all these years, has fallen the task of editing the 34-volume, 15,000-image, 30,000-page, 41,000-article, 720,000-entry, 28 million word *Macmillan Dictionary of Art*.

It is, arguably, the most exhausting, exhaustive publishing feat of the age. That may explain why Mrs Turner, just now, is feeling zonked.

Amid all those statistics, however, such as the fact that the dictionary was delivered four years and a million words after deadline, that Mrs Turner had 150 people working for her, at the zenith, that it has cost millions, that she herself spent the past two years on the other side of the world from her husband, father of their infant son, or that she worked seven days a week, usually 18 hours a day, proofreading 450 pages a day and double-checking from last Christmas until March... amid all that, surely the most daunting fact is that Mrs Turner dealt with no fewer than 6,700 art historians.

On the measure of personal irritability art historians register the highest of scores. The stroppest Bond Street moll, compared to the art historian, becomes a toothless pelinee.

Over lunch in Manhattan, Jane Turner did look a little pale. Her hand shook, one could not help noticing, and her American voice, its cadences prettily peppered by Anglicisms after a decade of London life, quavered.

The academics helped to write the dictionary but there were plenty who complicated her task. One, from Romania, called to say that, with regret, his copy would be "er, later" because his life's work had moments earlier been shot to ribbons in revolutionary Bucharest. Mrs Turner was on the verge of a sardonic "yeah, sure" when she realised that the poor wretch was telling the truth.

Another art historian, who was commissioned to write the (illustrated) section on erotic art, really did lose his manuscript from the back of his car. The art world is one of intense rivalries. Artists, patrons, and collectors lobbied Mrs Turner, sometimes in person, to be included in the reference book.

When, at a meeting of contributors, Mrs Turner happily announced that the generally respected Richard Wollheim had written a particular entry, a voice from the back of the hall shrieked: "Good God! If I had known that terrible fellow was contributing to the book, I would never have agreed to help." And with that the complainant, a senior member of England's art history world, flounced out of the room. Academics are bad at meeting deadlines, and it reached the stage that Ian Jacobs, publisher of Macmillan, took personal control of chasing 3,500 "delinquent" contributors. One eminent scholar, on hearing him at the door of his faculty, hid in the ladies' lavatory. Jacobs was later lunching at Covent Garden when he saw the tardy contributor walking by. Napkin still in collar, he rose from his table and chased him down the street.

It was in the early 1980s, at a dinner celebrating Macmillan's updated *Grove Dictionary of Music*, that the art dictionary was born. After a ghastly evening Harold Macmillan, later the Earl of Stockton, murmured to Nicholas Byam Shaw, his senior publishing executive, who comes from an artistic family: "Well, dear boy, what shall we do next?" Byam Shaw sucked on his teeth and said: "What about a dictionary of art?" Macmillan, airily: "Splendid

As the woman in charge of editing the new 34-volume *Macmillan Dictionary of Art*, Jane Turner had, arguably the worst job in the world. Interview by Quentin Letts.



The 34-volume, 41,000-article, 720,000-entry, 30,000-page *Macmillan Dictionary of Art*, arguably, the most exhausting, exhaustive publishing feat of the age, and its editor, Jane Turner

idea. Capital! Carry on." And that was it.

Or at least that was the beginning. Mr Jacobs, not a man given to overstatement, calls the dictionary "the most tremendous bloody slog, a project of staggering complexity". What Mrs Turner brought to the show was a level of logistical skill worthy of Operation Desert Storm. She dragged the staff into cadres of oiled efficiency, building on the initial work of the visionary Hugh Brigstocke.

The first step was to identify experts in the countless fields of expertise, itself no easy task. The crustiest old sweats from Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford, the Sorbonne, the Hermitage, the Prado and numerous other international institutions had to be charmed and cajoled. The top art scholars from Tonga to Trinidad, Curacao to

Croydon, had to be identified and hired. All had to be made to feel special. Worse, their scrawls, egg-spattered manuscripts, and often foreign meanderings had to be deciphered and subjected to strict editing.

Then there was the business of allocating page quotas, for individual entries, a necessarily crude affair which would later be fine-tuned. Mrs Turner, previously an historian of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, also had to create a system of "rolling editing" so that no department in her six-floor fiefdom off the Strand was idle.

It is the nature of the art world never to be satisfied, and some American critics have already claimed to have identified a British bias. Mrs Turner is American, so this seems unlikely (her husband, the British art expert Nicholas Turner, works for the Getty Museum in California). At early public lectures in the US, feminists have whinged about the imbalance of male artists over female. "It was not my fault that in previous centuries few women were allowed to paint," retorted Mrs Turner. There will also be squabbles about the inclusion or exclusion of living artists. Damien Hirst does not make the cut, but a German artist called Hermann Nitsch who experimented with animal carcasses

A senior art historian flounced out of the room

in the Sixties, does. Another trendy name excluded, hurray, is the award-winning sculptress Rachael Whiteread. Mrs Turner gives the distinct impression of being unimpressed by inside-out houses.

Living patrons of importance are included (the Saatchis scrape in) but there is only one breathing art historian in the entire work: Sir Ernst Gombrich. "That, simply, is because he changed the face of

art criticism this century," says Mrs Turner. Among book reviewers, meanwhile, competition is strong for the rationed 12 copies of the complete work — 12 for the whole world, that is — which have been reserved as review copies.

When, after a career span, bound volumes of the dictionary arrived at the Macmillan headquarters in London, Mr Jacobs found his knee went into an uncontrollable wobble. Mrs Turner just stopped and gawped at what she had

helped achieve. She is now engaged in a trans-global promotional tour which should earn her enough air miles to bag her a place in the next Nasa space shuttle.

There is still, in the Macmillan camp, an air of anticlimax, coupled with triumph, that they have produced this enormous length of scholastic sausage. With the age of computer information, it could be the last great work of reference to be assembled between hard covers. And just think, it could be yours. All for a mere £5,750.

Deliver us from these fallacies

Nicholas Tate defends the national forum's code on morality

There are four modern fallacies about morality we need to tackle if we are to support schools and parents in promoting the moral development of young people. The first is the fallacy that because we are now such a pluralistic society — a premise which in itself exaggerates the extent of fragmentation — that we do not and cannot, *ipso facto*, share a common moral code. What has been shown by recent events, not least the response to Dunblane and the murder of Philip Lawrence, is that this is simply not true.

All major civilisations and faiths show a remarkable convergence when defining those things in the human spirit worth valuing. This too was the experience of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority's national forum on values, in which nearly 150 people of all faiths and none surprised themselves by the extent to which they were able to reach agreement on a range of values to do with society, relationships, self and the environment.

They did not agree about the source of our values, for example whether this is God or in human nature, nor on their application to particular issues such as abortion and sexual morality; but all agreed that they valued truth, obedience to the law, collective endeavour for the sake of the common good, and our duty to try to discover meaning and purpose in life. These and other values they wanted to see explicitly proclaimed.

The response of some members of our weary metropolitan intelligentsia has been predictable, and should be ignored. Their attitudes — contemptuous of tradition, excited by the novel and bizarre, dismissive of the concerns of ordinary people — have been at the root of our moral confusion.

Equally predictable has been the response of those whose more particular moral views have not been included in the consensual statement of core values. Here I am more sympathetic. Social cohesion depends on stable relationships, stable marriages, fidelity, trust and a central role for the family. It is vital that we give all this maximum support. But it is not true that there is complete consensus within society that one kind of family unit is more valued than another.

The second fallacy is that moral opinions are no different from tastes and preferences, that there is no more point in arguing about moral matters than about tastes in food or foreign holidays. This kind of moral relativism is linked to the idea that our society is now so pluralistic that all we can do is agree to disagree.

We have been extremely successful in conveying this attitude to young people, as teachers will tell you. What we need is a reassertion of the idea of moral truth. One respects people with whose moral views one disagrees by reasoning with them, not by asserting lamely that their views

are as worthy as one's own. The third fallacy is that the supreme value is respect and tolerance. One of the findings of our survey of schools' value-statements was that schools which very definitely do not respect everyone — for example bullies and racists — still feel a need to claim that everyone is worthy of respect. This is a reflection of what, outside schools, has sometimes come to seem like a "no blame, no shame" society. The national forum was very clear that it did not tolerate or respect everyone, and that people should have the courage to say this. At the same time it wished to preserve the genuine respect for difference and diversity that has been one of the gains of modern society.

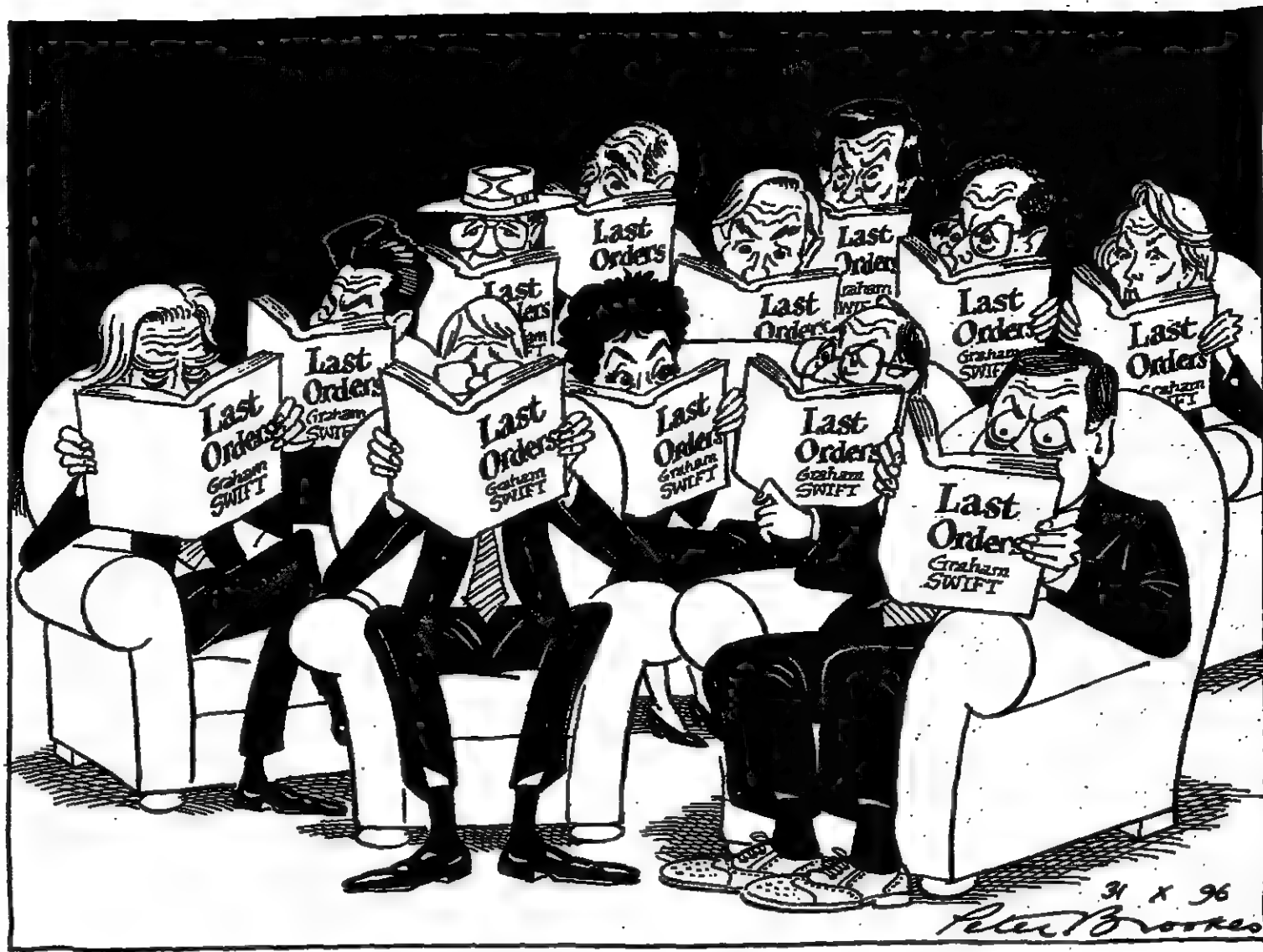
Finally, there is the fallacy that, because it is legal to do something, it must be acceptable to do it. We have become reluctant to condemn people exercising their legal rights. This confuses the liberal concern to limit the intrusion of the State with the issue of whether actions are right or wrong, beneficial or potentially harmful to society. One can maintain liberal limits on the powers of the State while yet taking a robust moral line about wrongdoing within the law.

The forum is helping to create a new mood in the nation

The best way to support schools and parents in promoting moral development is by recognising these fallacies. This means putting responsibilities back where they belong, reviving our sense that we belong to a civic society with a shared moral code and a common culture. It means recognising that there is a moral dimension to every aspect of our lives. The underclass, run-down council estates and "sink schools" are not the only manifestations of the problem. We must also examine the morality of the rich and the powerful, and of public life and business.

At one end of the spectrum is the libertarian view that only individuals matter and the market will answer even moral questions. At the other end, there is the pseudo-Marxist cultural relativism which rejects traditional moral codes as a bourgeois imposition, sees "judgmentalism" as the greatest sin, and accepts whatever debased lifestyle it encounters. Both have been immensely damaging over the past 30 years. Neither enables schools and parents to do the things that society legitimately expects of them.

I sense we are coming to a turning point. Dunblane, Frances Lawrence's recent statement, the Prince of Wales's call for a genuine celebration of the millennium, and the national forum on values may be helping to create a new national mood. Sustaining that mood is as important as any programme of action for schools. In the end it will be the attitudes and assumptions of the wider society, and its support (or lack of it) that determine such a programme's success.



Haunted by the unborn

Since 1973, there have been 30 million abortions in America. Now Winning v. Blair is making it a political issue here

Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, has made abortion a serious political issue in Britain. We shall need to take another look at Roe v. Wade, 1973, the case in which the Supreme Court of the United States decided to create a hitherto unknown constitutional right to abortion, the so-called right to choose. Whatever view one takes of its merits, the consequences of that decision have been formidable. The United States now has approximately one and a half million abortions a year, the great majority of them — over 85 per cent — killing healthy fetuses. In the 23 years since Roe v. Wade, there have been a total of 30 million. Three out of ten conceptions in the United States end in the destruction of the fetus.

The sheer scale of these figures may be one reason why the Americans see this as an urgent political issue in a way that most people in Britain have not. Proportionate to the population, the number of abortions in America is about twice that in Britain. The Supreme Court has been responsible for a veritable genocide of American infants, comparable in number to the deaths for which Stalin, Hitler or Mao were responsible. Five times as many American babies have died as a result of Roe v. Wade as Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Even in Britain, these deaths, more than 3 million in the past 30 years, have exceeded the battlefield deaths of both world wars. They are the missing generation.

Robert Bork, the American judge who was rejected as a Supreme Court Justice by the Senate in 1987, has made a cogent legal case against the Roe v. Wade judgment. In his 1990 book, *The Tempting of America*, he comments:

In an opinion of just over 51 pages, Justice Blackmun, writing for a majority of seven justices, employed the right of privacy to strike down the abortion laws of most states and to set severe limitations upon the state's power to regulate the subject at all. From the beginning of the Republic until that date, January 22, 1973, the moral question of what abortion should be lawful had been left entirely to state legislatures. The discovery this late in our history that the question was not one for democratic decision but one of constitutional law was so implausible that it certainly deserved a 51-page explanation. Unfortunately in the entire opinion there is not one line of explanation, not one sentence, that qualifies as legal argument. Nor has the Court in the 16 years

since ever provided the explanation lacking in 1973. It is unlikely that it ever will, because the right to abort, whatever one thinks of it, is not to be found in the Constitution.

There is another warning here for Britain. The 10th Amendment to the American Constitution was passed as early as 1791, among the very first group of amendments: it reads "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." This was an early attempt to give constitutional protection to the principle which in Europe has been called "subsidiarity". Manifestly, the 10th Amendment has failed to protect the right of the individual states to decide matters appropriate to them. Before Roe v. Wade, the states had different laws on abortion, some more liberal, some more conservative. The power to make their own laws on abortion was arbitrarily taken away from them. That was a ruthless blow against the democracy of the individual states, and we have to expect similar judicial activism from the European Court.

Robert Bork, who by an irony taught law at Yale to Bill and Hillary Clinton, has now written a second book, *Slouching towards Gomorrah*, which is currently a bestseller in the United States. He attacks what he sees as the corruption and decline of American culture, a decline which can be observed in Britain as well. His view is pessimistic: "For the immediate future, what we probably face is an increasingly vulgar, violent, chaotic and politicised culture." Many people in Britain also fear this state of the present anxieties.

Judge Bork regards abortion as one aspect of the loss of concern for human life. The systematic killing of unborn children in huge numbers is part of a general disregard for human life that has

been growing for some time. Abortion by itself did not cause that disregard, but it certainly deepens and legitimises the nihilism that is spreading in our culture and finds killing for convenience acceptable. We are crossing times, at first slowly, and now with rapidity: killing unborn children for convenience; removing tissue from live foetuses; contemplating creating embryos for destruction in research; considering taking organs from living encephalic babies; experimenting with assisted suicide; and contemplating euthanasia. Abortion has coarsened us.

I am not sure that abortion will remain so largely a non-political issue in Britain, though even in America the actual consequences are hard to judge. Bill Clinton is unquestionably the pro-abortion candidate for the presidency, having even vetoed

the Bill that would have prohibited late-term abortions: they are simply a cruel way of killing viable babies at the point of birth. Yet he has a much larger majority among women than among men. One has to remember that abortion is traumatic and imposes a great responsibility on women. Those who have been through the experience are more likely to vote for candidates who support their moral judgment than for those who condemn it. If Tony Blair's position in the abortion debate were to become a campaign issue, that would certainly win for Labour pro-abortion votes as well as losing anti-abortion votes.

If one takes the party leaders as typical, and one probably can, abortion seems to be a left-wing feminist and libertarian cause. Tony Blair has voted pro-abortion 13 times since he became an MP, has abstained 15 times and has never voted against. He is not the embryo's friend. Paddy Ashdown has voted pro-abortion 12 times, abstained 7 times, and voted against 9 times. John Major has voted pro-abortion 4 times, abstained 23 times and voted against 9 times. A similar pattern of the Democrats

being pro-choice and Republicans pro-life can be found in America.

In the past week there has been a difference of emphasis inside the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The English bishops specifically and strongly condemned abortion, but warned against making it the single deciding issue in whether to vote for a particular candidate. Cardinal Winning has frankly criticised Tony Blair's position, and seemed to be making a polite correction of the position of the English bishops. Tony Blair himself adopts the position that he is personally opposed to abortion, but believes it is a matter of choice for the mother, not a matter for the criminal law. Eight years ago he even opposed David Alton's Bill to reduce the limit for abortion from 28 to 16 weeks. That was surely wrong, as 28 weeks is now a viable term for many premature babies.

One difficulty with his argument is that abortion is not simply a choice for the mother, but has become a very large one in the United States and quite a large one in Britain. Even those who think that abortion is morally acceptable in itself, and many people obviously do think that, might well still want to lay down the conditions in which that industry should operate. David Alton's Bill did not strike at the principle of abortion, but it did seek to regulate the age at which foetuses could be aborted. That sort of regulation is surely an appropriate job for Parliament, whatever view one takes of abortion itself. Pope John Paul II has included abortion and euthanasia in condemning what he terms "the culture of death", a phrase which has been repeated by the Roman Catholic bishops. Robert Bork sees Roe v. Wade as a very significant part of their death culture, and also as one of the causes of the new barbarism of the United States. He takes the title of his new book from William Butler Yeats's 1919 poem "The Second Coming". The poem is famous because it expresses so many people's fears.

More anarchy is loosed upon the world, The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere The ceremony of innocence is drowned; The best lack all conviction, while the worst Are full of passionate intensity... And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

Return of the native

Andrew Neil must heed the Scots, says Magnus Linklater

Shushie is a good Scots word meaning an uproar or commotion, often associated with someone or something stirring things up. It is a fair description of the reaction to this week's announcement that Andrew Neil has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of *The Scotsman* and its sister publications in Edinburgh. Not since Oliver Cromwell headed north in 1650 has there been such a fluttering in the dovecoats.

This is, of course, partly to do with Mr Neil's reputation as a man of forceful opinions, not noted for his sensitivity towards those who question them. But is also a matter of timing. The appointment comes at a politically delicate moment, six months before an election, when the four major parties north of the border are staking out their positions, when vulnerabilities are being exposed, when a newspaper with strong views strongly expressed might just have a significant impact on the result.

It is a scenario Mr Neil will recognise and relish. As his new autobiography reveals, he is clear about the social and political responsibilities of a newspaper and its editor. "Readers should be left in no doubt what their newspaper believes on the major issues of the day," he writes, "and its attitude to current events should, in turn, be determined by a broad set of principles which guide its outlook on life."

The principles which inform his own views, and therefore those adopted by *The Sunday Times*, were the need to challenge the post-war Establishment, which he blamed for Britain's decline; support for the market economics which, properly applied, had the potential to produce a social revolution; the belief that Margaret Thatcher had been broadly right but had not gone far enough. Mr Neil is a staunch supporter of the Union, of privatisation, deregulation and the old grammar schools. He derides the entrenched attitudes of the trade unions, the monarchy, the House of Lords, the established church, the welfare state, the law, medicine, inherited wealth and the liberal establishment.

He fought the closure of Paisley Grammar School, where he was educated. In his book he describes gleefully how, in 1987, he appealed directly to Mrs Thatcher and succeeded in outmanoeuvring the then Scottish Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, who was initially unwilling to intervene. The school was saved. "The left-wing press, especially the *Glasgow Herald* and *The Scotsman*," he writes, "were spitting blood."

This, then, is the empire Mr Neil has inherited. Pretty well every one of his attitudes is the exact opposite of what it represents. We are in for some interesting times.

Of course shaking up a complacent Establishment is part of the function of a good newspaper. There would have been no dissent from that principle from the newspaper that Harold Evans had once edited, despite the contempt expressed by Mr Neil for the "once fashionable" increasingly dated left-wing views. He considered typical of *The old Sunday Times*. It too had a natural scepticism of all established institutions, whether of Left or Right. But it did regard detachment as a journalistic virtue. It pursued interesting stories for their own sake, rather than for some ideological goal. It never, so far as I can recall, saw its primary role as an engine of social or political change. And its leading articles tended to explore the issues of the day rather than sounding a weekly clarion call.

Mr Neil's idea of the conviction newspaper is more in tune with the mood of the British press today than with the press of the distant pre-Thatcher days. Watched by anxious politicians, monitored by spin-doctors, the press bears more directly on the political process than ever before. To back Blair, to abandon Major, to align with the Euro-sceptics or embrace the single currency — these have become the indicators of a newspaper's character, far more than a reputation for painstaking investigation or well-written features.

Which makes Mr Neil's new enterprise that much more interesting. He is right to say that the Scottish media present a rather uniform view of the political and social scene. Broadly devolutionist, marginally left of centre, by instinct statist, defensive of Scottish institutions and distrustful of change, the papers might well benefit from a few more challenges. The Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth — the Andrew Neil of Scottish politics — has achieved much by questioning some of the Scots' more cherished assumptions. But he has not been loved for it. The close relationship that any decent newspaper establishes with loyal readers is a thing of long-established intimacy, and one interferes at one's peril. As with a marriage, its secrets may not always be discernible to an outsider, but should be respected. Mr Neil should spend his first few months in Scotland listening carefully, rather than shouting too loudly. Although he is returning to will be unfamiliar territory, "Gang warily" is another good Scots expression.

Still waving

WHO NEEDS Britannia when you can have Prince Michael of Kent? In Rio de Janeiro for the first stopover of the BT Global Challenge, old "sea-legs" Kent has asked to help to man a yacht for the 1,200 mile-long stretch between New Zealand and Australia.

The Prince hopes to join the crew of *Ocean Rover* on the round-the-world yacht race. He is underlined by warnings that he will have to hunker down with the rest of the crew, sharing bunk-beds and doing his share of the night-watch.

He has asked Chay Blyth, the race director, for permission to join the *Rover* on the third leg of the race. The passage is renowned for its heaving swells which give rise to biliousness among the less experienced. Sailing is expected to last a week.

The Prince's choice of *Ocean Rover*, a boat sponsored by the Rover Group, may be connected with his visit to a motorshow in São Paulo, where Rover is exhibiting. Unlike other crew members, who have paid up to £18,850 to sail round the world, he is not expected to pay for his passage.

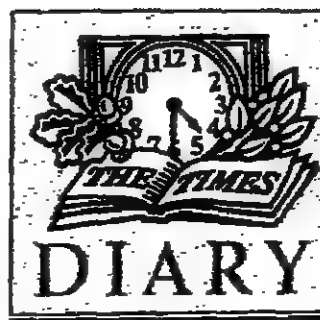
To date, the yacht's record has been unimpressive. Two weeks

ago, *Ocean Rover* came to a grinding halt in mid-ocean when it crashed into a large shark, killing the beast. More recently, the boat came close to being washed up on the beach at Copacabana, when she drifted perilously close to the surf coming into Rio.

Indian heritage experts are flapping their pantaloons after discovering that the remains of the



"Oh no, Sir Cameron's in the theatre tonight"



noted 19th-century Urdu poet, Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim Zauq, lie buried under one of Delhi's largest public lavatories. The Indian Supreme Court has ordered an inquiry into the unhappy circumstances, and demands that the toilets, which were built on his grave in 1961, be replaced with a more fitting national monument.

Bald truth

TITTERS spread like measles through the stalls at Covent Garden yesterday during the Royal Opera House's dress rehearsal of *Don Giovanni*.

Alison Hagley, due to sing the part of Don Giovanni's intended, Zerlina, was indisposed. In stepped staff director Andrew Sinclair, handsome enough — but shortish,

male and balding.

Thomas Allen, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary year at Covent Garden, remained a model Don during the wowing scene, caressing Sinclair's bald head as if nothing more precious existed in the universe.

The belly laughs only began when the struttles flashed up his amorous libretto, all about how he loved to run his fingers through it Zerlina's hair.



Caresses but no tresses at the Royal Opera

on Tuesday night, Graham Swift awoke yesterday morning with a head-splitting hangover. By the afternoon, he was cheery again. "I decided to carry on, and to drink my way out of it," he slurred.

Cattywalk

NAOMI CAMPBELL, the siren from Streatham, has thrown a wobbly. She has backed out of a show in New York's Fashion Week for the designer Mark Whitaker, failing to turn up for her fitting for the event, which is a tribute to black models. Her representative says that she was never booked; others say that her team thought the show to be beneath her, with not enough models of super-status.

Naomi is also being hotly-toity about a show on Friday, and has said she won't appear unless she's allowed the most prestigious position — first on and last off the catwalk. One further condition: that Tyra Banks, a catwalk rival, isn't allowed to follow her down the runway.

Hair-raiser

CONGRATULATIONS to Gemma Flowers, the one-time lounge singer, owner of the biggest hair south of the Mason-Dixon line,



Gennifer: won't be inviting Bill to the wedding

and alleged former lover of Bill Clinton. On November 2 she is to marry Finis Shelmut, an institutional broker. Shelmut, who wears a moustache, is a former in-law of Clinton's former Arkansas cronny and Deputy US Attorney General, Webster Hubbell.

Hubbell has since stepped down from his government post for a spell in jail. Clinton, who was forced by Miss Flowers's allegations into admitting that his marriage had not been all it might have been, has not been invited to the wedding.

P-H-S



THE WRONG WAY

Higher interest rates will damage the economy

Kenneth Clarke has made a serious mistake in agreeing to the Bank of England's demand for an increase in the base rate. The seriousness of the Chancellor's error should not be judged by the small magnitude of yesterday's move. On its own, a quarter point rise in interest rates is not going to make much difference to the economy, especially since it is unlikely to be matched by any change in home mortgage costs. But anyone inclined to hope that yesterday's increase "had better be it", to recall the words of Jeremy Hanley the last time Mr Clarke embarked on a round of rate increases in 1994, must be even more naive than the former Conservative Chancellor.

Once interest rates start rising, they tend to increase by at least one or two percentage points, before they again stabilise. Mr Clarke's last monetary tightening, which the Chancellor referred to yesterday as the paradigm of a successful "pre-emptive move" against inflation, took interest rates up by 1.5 per cent between November 1994 and February 1995. Even if Mr Clarke proves more circumspect this time than he was two years ago, it is probably wishful thinking to assume that this rate increase will be the last before the general election. This is the clear lesson of experience: no round of monetary tightening since the 1960s has involved an increase of less than 1.5 per cent. It is also logical from an economic point of view.

The inflationary pressure that motivated an increase in interest rates, is not going to be removed until the rate increase has a substantial economic impact. And until the economic impact of higher rates becomes apparent in the statistics, the demands for monetary tightening from the City and the Bank of England, which prompted the original rate are only going to intensify. The market's appetite for higher rates often grows with the feeding.

Businessmen, investors and homeowners should therefore brace themselves for further rate increases, including higher mortgage rates, between now and the general election. Tory backbenchers had better prepare themselves for an election in which they cannot even boast about the Government's one previously unquestionable achievement — the maintenance of low and steady interest rates. Yesterday's small move, therefore, is bound to affect Britain's entire political and economic landscape — and in ways which will be damaging not only to the Government's re-election prospects but also to the national interest.

The political implications of this move are even clearer. Mr Clarke presumably hopes that his toughness yesterday will increase his anti-inflationary credibility, allowing him more scope to cut taxes in the Budget. The Chancellor insists, of course, that his Budget will be the model of prudence. But if it were not for the election and if the economy were genuinely in danger of overheating — which is by no means clear — Mr Clarke could have taken the necessary anti-inflationary action in the Budget by cutting public spending and, if necessary, raising taxes, instead of pushing up interest rates.

The economic impact of higher rates is more complex. Consumer confidence will be dented eventually, but the main effects will, as usual, be on investment and exports. Sterling, which has already risen by 7 per cent in the last two months, is likely to appreciate further, making British exports less profitable and eliminating all hope of investment-led growth. Construction and manufacturing will suffer disproportionately, while services will benefit. The healthy rebalancing of the British economy in favour of manufacturing, which began so painfully after Black Wednesday, will be thrown into reverse. Instead, the country will be back on the well-trodden path towards the imbalances, trade deficits and the budgetary crises of the ERM period. Yesterday's step may have been a small one, but it was clearly in the wrong direction.

Businessmen, investors and homeowners should therefore brace themselves for further rate increases, including higher mortgage rates, between now and the general election. Tory backbenchers had better prepare themselves for an election in which they cannot even boast about the Government's one previously unquestionable achievement — the maintenance of low and steady interest rates. Yesterday's small move, therefore, is bound to affect Britain's entire political and economic landscape — and in ways which will be damaging not only to the Government's re-election prospects but also to the national interest.

THE REAL PRIZES

Selection is necessary, not nostalgic

The publication of another Education Bill has now become as much an autumn ritual as the end of British Summer Time. This year has already been characterised as another exercise in turning the clock back. The Education Secretary's opponents have delighted in the nostalgic nostalgia displayed by her downgrading of the case. Similar rhetoric has been deployed to claim the centrepiece of her Bill — an extension of selection — with Labour caricaturing it as a return to the 11-plus.

The reality is different. Three painful decades after the comprehensive experiment began the lesson is slowly being relearned that schools should be academic institutions and not playgrounds for social engineers. In the Sixties, pious egalitarians, guilt-stricken at the advantages private education had secured for them, opposed selection as the most obvious affront to their levelling spirit. As Melanie Phillips has noted in *All Must Have Prizes*, educationists were driven by allegiance to an abstract notion of equality which meant none could be seen to fail.

Ms Phillips has rightly drawn attention to the debilitating effect of moral relativism and progressive teaching methods. But the guilty men and women in the classroom had their accomplices in Westminster. Institutions and examinations which defended academic achievement, such as grammar schools and the O-level, were replaced by the comprehensive, and the GCSE, both designed to cushion those who did not learn from the consequences of their failure.

Selection is not, in itself, a solution to thirty years of hurt. Its extension, however,

is a welcome re-assertion of the principle that education is about drawing distinctions. Selection helps both the able and the less gifted. Pupils learn better when their peers are matching in step. Moreover, the chance to select on grounds other than academic ability allows schools to specialise in areas such as sport or music, increasing opportunities for the talented.

Ideally, the Government should leave it to each school to decide the number of pupils it wishes to select and the criteria it wishes to employ. It should then leave the best schools to expand, or indeed takeover failing rivals. Instead, the Education Bill specifies the proportion of pupils a school can select. Quotas are rarely a good idea in education but there are merits in having some selection in a school that would otherwise be comprehensive. Indeed a measure of selection should suit Labour. Allowing heads to choose some of their intake on the grounds of ability can both secure a broader social mix for some schools and make it easier to stream pupils, as Labour wishes.

Giving schools the chance to choose their pupils will not mean a diminution of parental choice. It should mean an expansion in available choices as schools embrace the opportunity to become more diverse. That diversity might best be secured in the next parliamentary session by giving parents even greater power with vouchers. Choice is not the enemy of quality, but its best guarantee. The more competitive pressure on schools, the more likely they are to adopt the traditional teaching methods and emphasis on excellence parents require.

KREMLIN SICKNESS

Gorbachev sends a message home from London

Mikhail Gorbachev's call on President Yeltsin to resign comes as no surprise. The former Soviet Premier has an antipathy to his successor in the Kremlin, based on personal slights, wounded pride and deep political antagonism. In *The Times/Dillons* forum on Tuesday night he blamed Mr Yeltsin for pulling Russia out of the Soviet Union, precipitating the break-up of the Soviet state. He has contempt for the economic reforms which he says have benefited only 10 per cent of the population. He admires General Aleksandr Lebed as a man of honour, action and integrity — mainly, it seems, because he presents the greatest challenge to Boris Yeltsin.

Mr Gorbachev's call on the Russian leader to admit that his health is too poor to continue in office must, therefore, be seen in the context of their embittered relations. Nevertheless, he makes some trenchant points. He urges Mr Yeltsin to spare Russia the infighting that, he recalls from personal experience, so paralysed the Soviet Union in the wasted years of the Brezhnev-Andropov-Chernenko gerontocracy. Russia cannot afford a prolonged interregnum; the constitution is too new, the precedents too few and democracy too brittle to survive determined assaults on its structures by would-be leaders. Mr Gorbachev argues that only a new election could restore legitimacy.

Mr Yeltsin's supporters, however, insist that the President was fairly elected and is entitled to his term in office as long as his health permits. There is no evidence that he

is too incapacitated to govern: he has shown that even from his sick-bed he is not too ill to take tough decisions, including the sacking of Mr Lebed and the stripping of General Aleksandr Korzhakov, his corrupt former aide, of his military duties. The medical team will make its decision next week. It may find Mr Yeltsin ready for an operation, from which he may make a full and reasonably speedy recovery.

Nevertheless, Mr Gorbachev has touched on the most sensitive question: the legitimacy and power of those who are ruling in Mr Yeltsin's name. What particularly angers Mr Gorbachev, who claims now to speak for the average citizen, is the corruption that has infiltrated the government machine and the shameless pursuit of profits by the privileged few at the expense of the many. He still dreams of some "third way", neither communist nor capitalist, that appears to be a vague version of Swedish social democracy. If reform had come more gradually, he believes, the excesses so visible today could have been avoided.

Perhaps, the West is inclined to be charitable to Mr Gorbachev because of the way the last Soviet leader, with so little bloodshed, ended the division of Europe. But his economic message now is no more compelling than were his botched economic policies when in office. It is as an astute observer of his country's turbulent politics, and as a continuing passionate advocate of the primacy of democratic freedoms, that he still commands respect.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Teaching morals, virtue and self-worth to the young

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeeoch

Sir, There seems to be a problem in many schools with teaching anything at all, let alone virtue ("Virtue must be taught", October 29). To maintain good order (which children appreciate) as the norm, discipline and authority are indispensable, and where disorder prevails nothing will be learned.

Parents and teachers, both, should accept that the healthy infant and growing child push out continually in all directions seeking the limits of behaviour. If these are not imposed firmly and consistently adolescent neurosis sets in. "Let's drop some concrete on the motorway and see if that will get a reaction."

Discipline is neither arbitrary nor repressive but called for by the nature of the task — one person trying to convey knowledge to a group, and authority must support discipline. In a secular state the source of such authority is the government, but its potency and credibility depend upon the influence of revealed religion.

Yours truly,
IAN MCGEOCH,
Kirk Deighton House,
Kirk Deighton, Wetherby, Yorkshire.
October 28.

From Mr R. N. Gregg

Sir, Things will change just as soon as enough people, ordinary people, stop asking "what are they going to do about it?" and start asking "what are we going to do about it?"

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GREGG,
27 Woodhill Road, Portishead, Bristol.
October 29.

From Dr Ben Wood

Sir, Your leader today, "Virtue must be taught" will strike a positive chord with most of your readers; it is not the application of self-evident truths in today's society that is the difficulty.

I was a very good little boy at my boarding school, something of a teacher's pet. My housemaster, however, was in the mould of Philip Lawrence and insisted that obedience to the rules did not mean that one was a "wet" weakling.

As you say, "Today's children will need power to exercise any kind of will

in the coming world..." They will need to be shown that good behaviour is not to be decieved but that it requires the high moral and physical courage so sadly but wonderfully displayed by Philip Lawrence.

Yours faithfully,
BEN WOOD,
3 Kingsfield, Lynton, Hampshire.
October 29.

From Mr W. A. L. Smith

Sir, Francis Lawrence's statement has started some sort of national debate on establishing new moral codes and, understandably, church leaders and politicians are addressing this aspect of it.

However, what stood out for me was when she quoted her husband as feeling that "perhaps young people today feel unchallenged and undervalued. It is only when you are challenged and therefore achieve something that life becomes worth living" (report, October 19).

I think this is profoundly true and what could be more challenging than forming your own Triad gang and recruiting others into it? Or making your own petrol bomb and seeing what happens when you throw it into a car?

Most youngsters probably do find life interesting and challenging if they are sufficiently academic or good at sport or music, but generally speaking it is the rest who play truant and get into trouble.

There is great scope for inventiveness in providing them with challenges. One possibility that comes to mind is to allow a group, with proper supervision and protection, to demolish an unsightly building that is awaiting development. Vandals do this already, but why not do it under controlled conditions?

Yours faithfully,
Wm. A. L. SMITH,
Woodlands, Vicarage Lane,
Nonsington, Dover, Kent.
October 30.

From Mrs Mary Whitehouse

Sir, You are to be congratulated on giving such generous publicity to the aims of Francis Lawrence's campaign for a nationwide movement for change and to her "vision for a better

society" which surely touches all hearts.

She says that the media "have a responsibility to face up to the consequences of their increasing reliance on an insidious barbarity" ("Manifesto", October 21). Indeed, The National Viewers' and Listeners' Association published a report in August this year entitled *More Cruelty and Violence 2*, which analysed 200 films shown on the four terrestrial television channels.

Our monitors listed as weapons of violence every kind of firearm and variety of knife. Other offensive weapons included truncheons, razors, stakes, crossbows, machetes, axes, snooker cues, tyre levers and metal bars, and all in the name of entertainment.

One of the sad aspects of all this is that the Broadcasting Standards Council is not very helpful, even though its function is to monitor the portrayal of violence, sex and bad language.

Perhaps one can best conclude by quoting from its own code on the "portrayal of violence". It concludes "that a society which takes delight in or encourages brutality or cruelty (physical or mental) for their own sakes puts its civilised values at risk". Indeed.

Yours faithfully,
MARY WHITEHOUSE
(Founder and President Emerita,
National Viewers' and
Listeners' Association,
All Saints House,
High Street, Colchester, Essex.
October 30.

From Mr John Drake

Sir, Mr Major has promised to back Francis Lawrence's campaign for a national movement against violence and to promote good citizenship.

Does this mean he will now reject the policies which the Tory Government have pursued for the past 17 years, and its "one first" ethos, which have done so much to damage our society and to create the conditions in which social irresponsibility, lawlessness and violence breed?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DRAKE,
32 Stonechat Road, Billericay, Essex.
October 28.

Logic obscured by emotion in decision to ban handguns

From Mr J. L. Holmes

Sir, I have seldom read such a poor argument for "blanket gun control" as that presented by Donald Dewar, MP ("Parliament needs a free vote on guns", October 29).

The families of Dunblane deserve our sympathy and few of us, thankfully, will ever experience the depths of their pain and sorrow. But to express such sympathy by bearing all handgun bans in the face of objective reason and ignores the thrust of the Cullen report.

The Dunblane tragedy happened, not because of legally-held handguns, but because a suspected pedophile reacted insanely to well-justified local complaints about his behaviour with children.

Despite verbal and written representations to the police regarding Hamilton's unsuitability to hold a handgun licence, he had been repeatedly granted licences for an increasing range of guns.

Two points are clear. Had the police carried out their responsibilities properly under existing laws at the time, Hamilton would never have held any legal weapons. Secondly, even if he had been denied guns, it is not inconceivable that Hamilton would have found an alternative method of mass murder. Handgun-ban legislation is unnecessary in the former case and futile in the latter.

A total handgun ban is proposed ostensibly to prevent any more Dun-

blanes. I would suggest that the current pedophile register legislation is much more likely to achieve this admirable end, because suspected pedophiles would already be on police files and should automatically be denied any weapon licence as a result.

Mr Dewar would do better to apply some logic to this debate rather than allow his emotional reaction to cloud his reason.

Yours sincerely,
J. L. HOLMES,
Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Street,
Grimby, Humberside.
October 29.

From Mr Keith G. N. Nicholson

Sir, The most worrying effect of a handgun ban is likely to be the increase in illegally held guns. These are already cheaper on the black market than in gun shops.

Two parallels should act as a caution. Prohibition of alcohol in America led to soaring crime and a huge loss of revenue to the Government. Although huge sums are being spent to curb illegal drug use in Britain, consumption is increasing, regardless of the law, and the street price is falling (but still at a level where crime is often needed to support the habit).

I do not advocate that drugs be unrestricted but if their provision is regulated by the State, as Dr Cresswell suggests (letter, October 30), then the black market dies, crime falls and society has a better chance of controlling

their use and, more importantly, helping addicts.

Banning guns is the easy emotional reaction but so doing may be costly to us all. The Government has lost control of drugs and a ban will lose it any control over guns.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH G. N. NICHOLSON,
The Old Stables, Hartley Mews,
Hartley Wintney, Hampshire.
October 30.

From Mr Chris Boylan

Sir, Our elected leaders, in dangerous dogs mode, are about to bounce into ill-considered legislation. Every sane human being shares the grief of the parents of Dunblane and that of Mrs Lawrence and her family.

The compassion and wisdom of that lady are a shining example in this grubby age. It is simply squalid to see our politicians vying for electoral advantage by trying to see who can find the best way to destroy the legitimate sport of pistol shooting and who can ban the most knives.

Members of Parliament may cover the paucity of their ideas with as many smoke-screens as they wish but nothing will convince me that sound policing and proper application of existing laws could not have prevented both tragedies.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BOYLAN,
33 Walden Avenue, Chislehurst, Kent.
October 29.

pupil models of academic achievement from within a school, and what should society expect from it?

The alternative is to establish large, well run, multi-disciplinary, multi-stream comprehensive schools in Halifax and wherever else the "sink" problem arises. Such schools welcome all levels of ability and motivate their pupils to give of their best. I know: I have enjoyed teaching in four of them.

Yours sincerely,
T. JACOBS,
3 Holmesdale Avenue, SW14.
October 23.

The law prohibiting children from taking part in the National Lottery needs to be more rigorously enforced; it should be clearly recognised that the lottery is adult entertainment. The draw should therefore be broadcast after the 9pm watershed and the age limit for the purchase of tickets raised from 16 to 18.

Yours faithfully,
E. MORAN,
Chairman,
The National Council on Gambling,
C/o Grovelands Priory Hospital,
Southgate, N14.
October 26.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Reasons to raise BBC licence fee

From Sir James Hann

Sir, As an industrialist, it surprises me that the debate over the funding of the BBC has so far paid meagre attention to what I see as the investment case for an increase in real terms in the licence fee.

An industrial company decides to step up investment according to whether the money is available, and there is a ready market for the product and the investment makes sense in the long term.

In the case of an increased licence fee, it is evident that these criteria are easily met. The money is available. As a nation we spend more on leisure pursuits each year. At 25p per day the licence fee is a fantastic value. The market is huge and growing, as the popularity of the (expensive) satellite television channels testifies.

Is it in the long-term interests of Britain? Given that, in my view, the BBC consistently beats all foreign national broadcasters in quality and value for money, the answer has to be a resounding yes. In addition, efficiency improvements over the last few years (Pennington, Business, October 8) have shown the BBC to be a good custodian of our money.

Any business which has raised output and improved quality as the BBC has, without increasing its prices in real terms for ten years, is in my view a worthy candidate for investment. One could argue that the licence fee is in need of urgent review, leading to a meaningful increase.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES HANN
(Chairman, Eurotherm plc),
Bramley Cottage, Bullhouse Lane,
Wringing, nr Bristol, North Somerset.
October 29.

Influence of Opus Dei

From Mr Ian S. Menzies

Sir, Though not in total sympathy with all the views of Opus Dei, I welcome the fair account by Tunku Varadarajan ("Conservative and caring", October 26) — a long-overdue correction of long-standing slanders.

However, contrary to the implication of his article, Opus Dei's activities are by no means confined to Spain now and allegations of its secret influence in other countries are as distorted a version of the facts as they are in the case of Spain.

I also disagree with Mr Varadarajan's inclusion of the Jesuits among the orders "supposed to withdraw from the world". This is very far from the truth. The Society of Jesus has been closely and controversially involved in worldly affairs for hundreds of years, from 17th-century Paraguay to present-day liberation theology.

If Opus Dei can be labelled "pro-Thatcherite", then Jesuit philosophy may be closer to "one nation" (or perhaps "one world"). But then, having been educated by Jesuits, I suppose I would say that.

Yours sincerely,
IAN S. MENZIES (Publisher),
Imprimatur,
PO Box 31, Bognor Regis, Sussex.
October 28.

Chamberlain's policy

From Sir Richard Keane

Sir, Sir Nicholas Henderson's interpretation of Neville Chamberlain's appeasement policy (letter, October 24) is not, I believe, a true reflection of the Prime Minister's mind.

What was paramount in his mind was that Hitler could not be stopped by bluff and that England could not go to war without a united Empire. He believed that if the *cassus belli* could be represented as resistance to Hitler's efforts to bring all the German people of Europe within the one Reich then there would not be a united Empire.

I know this because the then Editor of *The Sunday Times*, W. W. Hadley, was in the habit of having each week a private conversation alone with the Prime Minister and he and I, as his assistant and diplomatic correspondent, would talk after these meetings.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD KEANE,
Capppocin Estate,
Capppocin, Co Waterford.
October 25.

Hell on wheels?

From Dr Margaret Gullan-Whur

Sir, Jemima Khan's comment after causing a car accident, "I am a terrible driver — always crashing into people" (Diary, October 26), is refreshingly frank but may not please her insurance company.

Other remarks which one hopes will not get back to insurers include my uncle's, that he always felt safe when driving since, "I have the wheel to hang on to, you see". A recent encounter on a narrow country lane brought a wound-down window and a crisp: "I hope you're not expecting me to go backwards. I'm much too old for that sort of thing."

My mother once asked, while driving: "What does that sign say?" The "sign" was a black and white cow leaning over a fence at the roadside.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET GULLAN-WHUR,
Orange House,
Heacham, Norfolk.
October 26.

Catholic bishops

From Viscountess Sidmouth

Sir, I applaud Lord Rees-Mogg's article of October 23 ("Bishops or party pawns?", letters, October 26). I am a committed, practising Roman Catholic, but I would sooner consult the Governor of the Bank of England on the Mystery of The Incarnation, than seek the advice of a bishop on the economics of a free market.

Furthermore, no matter how sound a parliamentary candidate's agenda may be on other matters, if they are at variance with Catholic teaching on an issue such as abortion, they would not have my vote. The bishops would do well, when giving advice, to "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's" and unto God the things that are God's.

Sincerely,
THERESA SIDMOUTH,
Selwood House,
Mells, Frome, Somerset.
October 27.

Returned with interest

From Mr Tony Hodges

Sir, My local branch of Barclays Bank is much nearer than Sainsbury's (report, October 26). It would be very handy for me if they started selling bacon, eggs and bread.

Yours faithfully,
TONY HODGES,
5 Cavendish Crescent North,
The Park, Nottingham.

Second draw

From the Chairman of the National Council on Gambling

Sir, The decision to allow a midweek lottery draw (report, October 24; letter, October 26) highlights the need to review the timing of its live television broadcast.

The Saturday draw, televised in the early evening, is the second most popular programme among 10 to 15-year-old children, with 38 per cent watching. The latest survey figures from Ofcom show that 18 per cent of under-age children purchase tickets. My own research indicates that the figure is a good deal higher.

At a time when politicians are striving to discourage undesirable behaviour among young people the future welfare of our children should be paramount.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM FORREST

William Forrest, foreign correspondent, died on October 28 aged 94. He was born on March 21, 1902.

William Forrest was the last, and one of the foremost, of the foreign correspondents of the old Fleet Street school in the days before the television camera substituted the immediate image for the considered word.

Willy Forrest, as he was always known, was a slight, dapper Scot whose quiet voice and disarming charm masked a steely determination to get the story, whatever the obstacles, and to ensure that it was printed without any "creative" sub-editing.

He first made his name with his coverage for the *Daily Express* of the Spanish Civil War, which began with Franco's attack on the Republican Government in July 1936. For more than two years, Forrest reported the bloody battles from the Republican frontlines until the Fascists' victory in 1939, with one break. This happened in 1937 when he came back to London at the beleaguered Republicans' request to lobby Parliament for desperately needed medical aid.

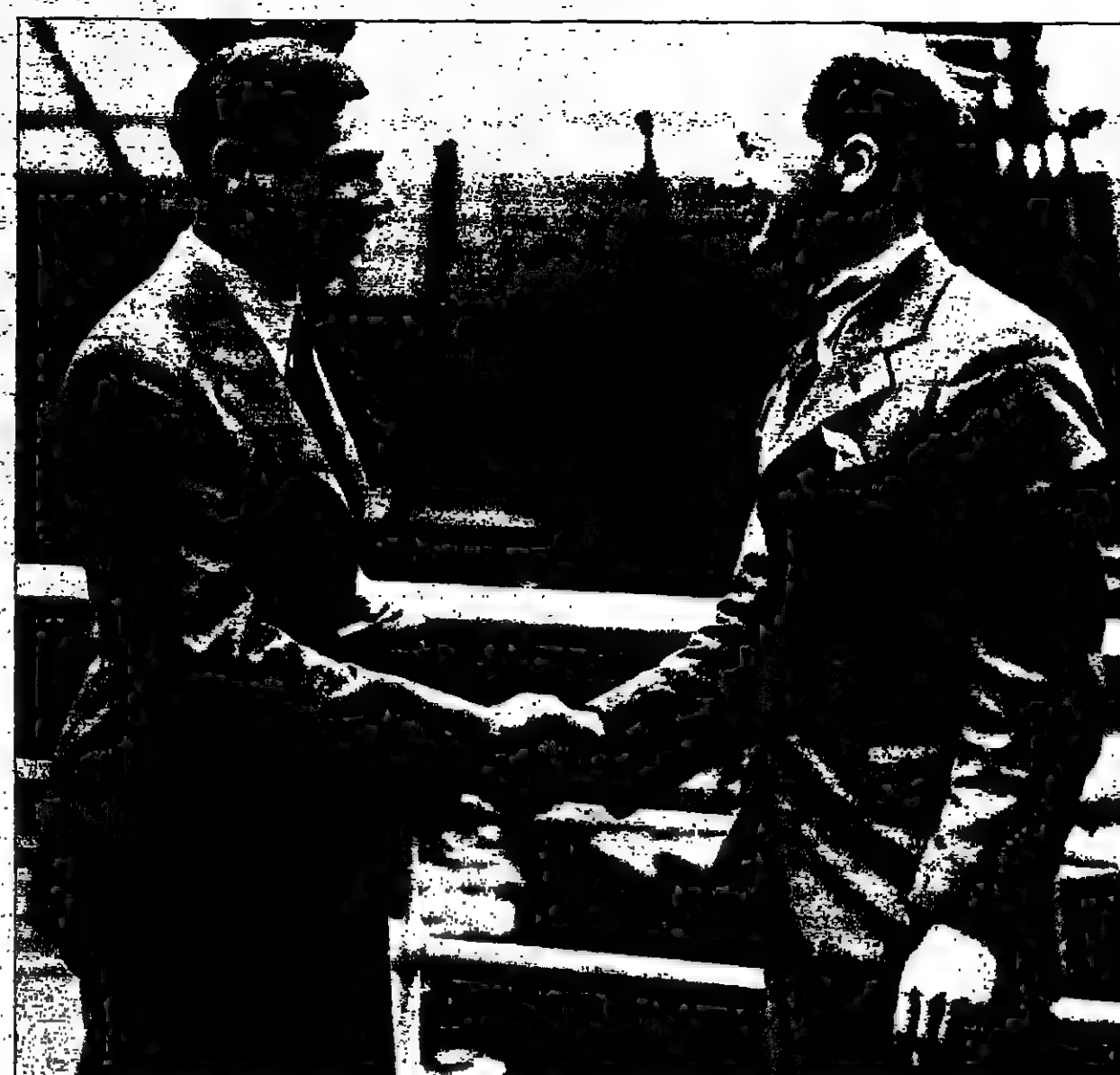
From then on the battlefield was to become his beat. He was on the spot for the Nazi invasion of Poland, escaping

just in time through Romania. His next assignment was the Russo-Finnish war. Ironically, that campaign, in which the Red Army brutally overran tiny Finland to extend its border defences, sowed the seeds of his eventual disillusionment with the Marxist faith, in which he had been brought up, although he remained a socialist to the end.

As the Second World War began in earnest, Forrest covered each front in succession: the retreat from Dunkirk, the London Blitz, the Eighth Army's Desert campaign (he was wounded at Tobruk), the Allied landings in Sicily and Salerno, the Normandy landings, the Rhine crossing and the fall of Berlin. By the end he probably knew more of war than some of the generals he interviewed.

When peace came Forrest became the *New Chronicle's* chief correspondent in Paris, where he revelled in the editorial freedom to exploit his skills as analyst of the political and social problems of liberated France after five years of coping with the unrelenting censorship of the desk-bound Whitehall warriors. Finally, it was as the paper's diplomatic correspondent, with his unrivalled inside knowledge of the European corridors of power, that he was able to give the *New Chronicle* its reputation for informed insight.

William Downie Forrest was a classic Scottish "lad of pairs", born into honest poverty on Glasgow's Lanarkshire fringe, rising to the top of his profession (or trade, as he called it). His father had had a comfortable job in the drinks trade until his mother, whose character was a formidable blend of inherited Presbyterian rectitude and passionate communist conviction, convinced him that making a living from alcohol was immoral. So Forrest senior became a labourer on a potato estate barely kept the family of five alive. Before school each morning Willy delivered bread and newspapers. "The five shillings I brought home



William Forrest, right, greeting Arthur Koestler on the latter's return from a Fascist prison in Spain in May 1937

each week," he said, "paid for the bread that was our main food."

When he left school in 1917 at the age of 15, he had the choice of three jobs: one at a coal merchant's at ten shillings a week; another at a flour mill at seven shillings and sixpence; and the third as a copy boy at the Glasgow Herald at five and ninepence.

"The newspaper job," decided his far-seeing mother and took him to see the great man, the editor, in his Rennie Mackintosh office. But he never made copy boy. "Start on Monday as a sub-editor," said this shrewd judge of talent, whose last young journalist had just gone off to the Great War.

The "guy gleg" halfpint, to describe Forrest in the Scots tongue he loved to converse in (it means "very bright youngster"), was a natural linguist who spent his hours away from the sub's desk adding Russian (of course), Hebrew, Arabic and Greek to the French and Latin he had brought from school. (It was a proud moment for the self-taught polyglot when his only son George, celebrated Greek

scholar, became Wykeham Professor of Ancient History at Oxford in 1977.)

Although he retired almost a quarter of a century ago, Forrest was still writing regularly for the international periodical *Gemini* in his late eighties — to the end the journalists' journalist.

He is survived by his wife Ina and their son.

SIR RODERICK BARCLAY

Sir Roderick Barclay, GCMG, KCMG, former Ambassador to Belgium and Denmark, died on October 24 aged 87. He was born on February 22, 1909.

RODDIE BARCLAY belonged to that generation of diplomats who, after the Second World War, helped to create the series of multilateral alliances which still provide a framework for international relations. He even called his spaniel Efta, after the European Free Trade Association.

He was later one of the so-called "flying knights" who, under the leadership of Sir Pierson Dixon, Ambassador to France, tried in the early 1960s to negotiate Britain's entry to the Common Market — until President de Gaulle's notorious "non". However, despite also serving as envoy to two Nato allies, Barclay is still best remembered for the two years he spent between 1949 and 1951 as principal private secretary to the Labour Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin.

Surprised, if gratified, to be offered such a glittering prize, he told Bevin, on accepting the appointment, that he hoped he would be up to the demanding task. Bevin replied that if their partnership did not work out "you can consider it my fault".

Barclay's duties as a fluent French speaker included having to translate restaurant menus. On the first occasion he was taken aback when the Foreign Secretary called for "some news with our dinner". He quickly discovered that this meant *Nuits St Georges*. But the chemistry between Barclay and Bevin worked so well that, despite their widely differing backgrounds, there developed a great mutual liking and respect.

Barclay's great strengths both as a diplomat and a businessman were his imperturbability in a crisis and his popularity. Subordinates, many of whom went on to reach high office themselves, received his total loyalty and trust, and repaid it in kind.

He remained a first-class shot throughout his life as well as being an accomplished fly fisherman. He took great pride when serving dinner at his Buckinghamshire home in pointing out that he had bagged the pheasant himself and grown the vegetables in his own garden. He was essentially a family man.

He married a cousin, Jean Gladstone, a kinswoman of the 19th-century Prime Minister, in 1934, and they celebrated their diamond wedding two years ago. She died earlier this year and Roddie Barclay, who never fully recovered from the loss, is survived by their son and three daughters.

spending his time shooting wildfowl on the Fens.

Barclay began his diplomatic career in 1932 and served before the war in Brussels and in Paris. During the war itself he was in Washington where he helped to represent the cause of the Free French to a sceptical US Administration.

There followed a long post-war period at home, including his time as head of the private office of the Foreign Secretary. After Bevin's retirement he stayed on to serve Herbert Morrison, whom personally and professionally he held in less regard. It was Barclay who first advised Morrison of the growing suspicion about Donald Maclean — who had in fact served under him in Paris and briefly in Washington. But Maclean, along with an unintended Guy Burgess, made his notorious flight before the net finally closed.

Barclay was appointed a Commander of the Victorian Order in 1953 after his work as head of the Foreign Office protocol department in helping to organise the Coronation. He was knighted for the first time two years later before going to Denmark as Ambassador. He was only 49.

He hosted two State visits, one while he was in Copenhagen, 1956-60, and again during his time in Brussels, 1963-69. In between these ambassadorial posts he was once more in London as a deputy under-secretary and "advisor on European trade questions".

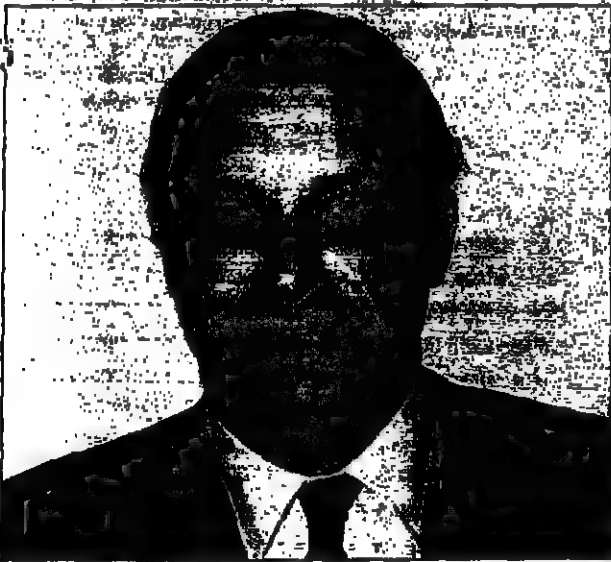
On retiring from the diplomatic service at the age of 60, Barclay joined the "family" bank, serving as non-executive chairman of its French subsidiary and as a director of Barclays International and of the Banque de Bruxelles.

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MICHAEL COTTRELL



Michael Cottrell, chairman of Matthew Clark and of Enterprise Inns, died of a heart attack on October 28 aged 57. He was born on December 24, 1938.

AN ARCHETYPAL gentle giant, Michael Cottrell was one of the best known and best liked figures in the drinks industry. After a 27-year-long career at Courage, during which it became one of the country's top brewers, he was later in demand as the part-time chairman of several smaller companies in the industry.

Each expanded rapidly under his leadership. In that role, aided by a 6ft 4in frame and a strong physical pres-

ence, he had the much-valued gift of being able to guide, encourage, and if necessary rein in executives firmly, good-humouredly and without causing offence.

Cottrell was born into the drinks business. Saccone & Speed, the wines and spirits firm, was in the family. After education at Downside and at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he earned a good law degree, in 1960 he started in the business and in Courage, which bought Saccone & Speed as part of the expansion of leading brewers into all aspects of the drinks industry.

The next two decades were a time of great opportunities for able young managers in the big, new brewery combines.

But they were also a time when personal skills were at a premium amid the rivalry of regional dynasties of the old beaige brought together by the torrent of mergers.

Cottrell's hard work and easy manner prospered in this tricky atmosphere and he moved swiftly up the ladder. The fashion for mega-mergers then changed Cottrell's life, along with that of many other top managers. Courage, the product of mergers, was itself taken over by Imperial, the successful tobacco group that had turned itself into a less successful conglomerate. Battle-hardened Courage managers soon took a broader role, allowing Cottrell to emerge as a youthful managing director of the brewing and drinks division.

A second watershed came early in 1986. Cottrell's stewardship of Courage was cut short after Hanson, a more aggressive conglomerate, in turn gained control of Imperial, and rapidly dismembered it after a bitterly contested £2 billion takeover battle, then the biggest seen in Britain.

Courage was in good fettle, Hanson aimed to keep it and Cottrell, much exercised about the future of his division and its employees, was content to be one of the few top Imperial executives not shaken by their new masters. Little more than a year later, however, he decided to move on soon after Hanson opportunistically accepted an offer for Courage from the Australian owners of Fosters.

At the relatively early age of 50, Cottrell was to embark on a new career as an elder statesman, guiding and leading rather than managing. After brief, unconvincing spells

as a head-hunter and as chairman of First Leisure, his authority, good sense and friendly disposition made him a popular choice for the boards of drinks firms, not least among their bankers and institutional shareholders. He variously became chairman of Matthew Clark, Enterprise Inns and, until conflicts of interest arose, Taunton Cider.

Clark, a long-standing but modest family drinks producer-distributor, was starting to expand rapidly under Peter Aikens, who had been Cottrell's production director at Courage. Enterprise is one of the leading independent pub-owning companies that owe their rapid growth to the limits placed on the big brewers' empires.

Taunton had been owned by a consortium of brewers, including Courage, before it gained its independence and later, when Cottrell was at the helm, won its own stock market flotation. Last year it was absorbed by Matthew Clark and ran into trading difficulties. Cottrell was due to tell shareholders of plans to deal with them the morning after his fatal heart attack.

His new career certainly did not make Cottrell's life any less hectic or give more time for passions such as shooting and gardening at his home in Kent. But it did allow him the pleasure of regaining control of the original part of the family business. He bought the Gibraltar operation of Saccone & Speed from the new owners of Courage.

Cottrell is survived by his wife Amanda, a Justice of the Peace, two daughters and two sons, one an executive of a top drinks group, the other working in Gibraltar.



Sir Roderick Barclay and his pet spaniel, Efta

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THE BLACKWALL TUNNEL

Messrs S. Pearson and Son, the contractors to the London County Council for the Blackwall Tunnel, yesterday entertained a large party to luncheon, which was served under the bed of the Thames, to celebrate the successful completion of the subaqueous portion of the undertaking. Among those who were invited to inspect the works were the chairman and many members of the London County Council, Sir Joseph Savory, Sir James Kison, Sir Alexander Rendel, Mr. George Livesey, Mr. J.W. Macdonald, M.P., the Mayor of Chichester, Sir John Colborne, and Sir Saul Samuel. Visitors were taken over the tunnel and there were guides in abundance to explain the methods and appliances employed in carrying out this difficult piece of engineering. These have already been described in *The Times* (December 26, 1894). The pneumatic shield, without which the work would have been impossible, was naturally of great interest and the adventurous were enabled to get some notion for themselves of the pleasures of being in compressed air, though the pressure was only a trifle above that of the atmosphere instead of being 35lb, as it had to be during a great part of the excavation. Though the passage under the river is now

ON THIS DAY

October 31, 1895

Luncheon was served beneath the Thames at the Blackwall Tunnel neared completion. The building of the tunnel was superintended by Sir Alexander Binnie, chief engineer to the London County Council; the contractor was Westman Pearson, later Viscount Cowdray.

complete, except that it is not yet lined with white brick and the roadway is not formed, there remains much more to be done, and it is unlikely that the tunnel will be ready for traffic for 18 months yet. On the north side some 1,200 ft of tunnel have yet to be made and, though this part is not under water, the engineers are by no means sure that it will not give considerable trouble. The difficulties will not, however, be of so alarming a character as those that had to be faced under the river, where in some places the heads of the workmen were only about 5ft from the bottom

of the stream, and where, moreover, the work had to be carried on in water-logged gravel which it was impossible to drain. The river, indeed, did burst in twice, but was ultimately vanquished by means of the compressed air, which was able to withstand the pressure of water sometimes nearly 50ft deep. Amongst other unwarmed incidents that occurred may be mentioned that the shield, when being forced forward by hydraulic rams capable of exerting a pressure of 4,800 tons, came into contact with a rock, and was so knocked out of shape as to cost some £10,000 to repair. But, in spite of such accidents, and of the gloomy prognostications of failure made by some experienced engineers, Messrs. Pearson have accomplished what promised to be by far the most difficult part of the undertaking. On this they may well be congratulated, as well as on the immunity from fatal accidents which they have enjoyed. No workman has been killed either by falling off scaffolds (for which the two deep shafts at each end afford abundant opportunity) or by mishaps from the machinery; nor has there been any death from the effects of compressed air. This, no doubt, is due to the care with which the men were medically examined before being allowed to work under the high pressures which were at times necessary.

NEWS

Blair capitalises on Tory disarray

■ Tony Blair and Labour have jumped to their highest poll ratings since the spring after the party conferences and the Government's recent disarray on policy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, puts Labour on 56 per cent against 28 per cent for the Conservatives and dashes Tory hopes that the party might at last have started to narrow the gap significantly. Page 1

Clarke's rate rise wrongfoots City

■ Kenneth Clarke surprised business when he ordered a quarter point rise in base rates to 6 per cent. The increase, the first in 18 months, wrongfooted the City which had been expecting rates to remain unchanged, and left shares lower but triggered a sharp rise in the pound. Page 1

Major's six of best

John Major's opposition to corporal punishment may date back to a humiliating experience when he was subjected to six of the best in front of 24 classmates. Page 1

Ruth Neave jailed

Ruth Neave was cleared of murdering her Nikki, 6, but sentenced to seven years in prison after admitting cruelty. Cambridge-shire social services suspended two workers. Pages 1, 5

Christmas post threat

Talks aimed at averting disruption to the Christmas post are to begin between the Royal Mail and unions after postal workers strongly backed more industrial action. Page 2

Hope for widow

Diane Blood, who was fighting for the right to have her late husband's baby, was cautiously optimistic yesterday that she might be allowed to go abroad for treatment. Page 3

School inquiry row

The Chief Inspector of Schools was at the centre of a row after claims that he had prejudged an emergency inspection of a strike-threatened school. Page 4

Kwai remembered

The Duke of Edinburgh flew over the infamous Bridge on the River Kwai and attended a service of remembrance for those who died building the railway. Page 7

Australian scientists back a loser

■ Two Australian scientists believe they know how to spot a loser after spending many hours at the racetrack. Instead of gazing vaguely at the horses as they parade before a race, they urge punters to concentrate on six key characteristics to avoid putting their money on also-rans. Bookmakers said they would rather know who was going to win. Page 3

Shopping for power

People will soon be able to choose whether to get their electricity from wind turbines in Wales or small hydroelectric schemes in Scotland in what is said to be a greener choice. Page 8

Double Booker'd

Graham Swift, the Booker Prize winner, and earlier winner Michael Ondaatje were taught English by the same man at Dulwich College, which has also produced other famous writers. Page 9

MI6's French spy list

MI6 gave the French secret service a list of 300 French diplomats and other foreign service officials suspected of being communist spies during the Cold War. *Le Monde* reported. Page 13

Rwanda nears war

Rwanda and Zaire are on the verge of war after Rwanda sent commandos across the Ruzizi river in retaliation for the shelling of a border town. Page 14

Taleban bombing raid

Taleban warplanes dropped cluster bombs in the Panjshir Valley stronghold of the commander of the forces besieging northern Kabul, it was claimed. Page 15

Congress's close call

With six days left, the race for the White House may be almost over, but the battle for Congress is becoming one of the closest ever. Page 17



This 2nd century BC gilded bronze Roman mask, used in battle, was found during excavations near Leiden, The Netherlands

BUSINESS

Economy: Sterling rose to a two-and-a-half year high after Kenneth Clarke's unexpected decision to raise rates by a quarter point to 6 per cent. Page 25

Confidence: Consumer optimism is now running at its highest level this decade and should be higher still by the time of the general election. Page 25

Sainsbury: J Sainsbury reported a sharp drop in interim profits and, in apparent acknowledgement of the depth of its problems, said that it would bring forward a reshuffle of top management. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 29.5 points to close at 3963.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 89.1 to 90.2 after a rise from \$1.6108 to \$1.6326. Page 28

SPORT

Football: The Premiership and National League and holding talks with the Football Association to see if the start to the 1997-98 season can be brought forward. Page 48

Rugby union: Australia opened their tour of the British Isles with a 47-20 victory over Scotland A, but lost their experienced centre, Jason Little, with a knee injury. Page 45

Crickets: Peter Moores is to replace Alan Wells as captain of Sussex. Wells had been in the post for five years but the club has just experienced a turbulent season. Page 46

Tennis: Three more seeds, Boris Becker, Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic, were knocked out of the Paris Open, bringing the total to eight after three days of the tournament. Page 44

POLITICS

Politician's art: Showcasing the first Prime Minister's collection: the treasures of Robert Walpole's Houghton Hall in Norfolk go on public display. Page 35

Art man: Robert Hughes, the man who turned modern art into television entertainment, returns this weekend with a programme devoted to American art. Page 35

Films of the week: Robert De Niro switches to psycho mode for *The Fan*, while Steven Seagal takes on serial killers and secret agents in *The Glimmer Man*. Page 36

Videos and records: All three films in the *Die Hard* series have been released on a single video; while Sir Charles Mackerras conducts a lively new recording of *Don Giovanni*. Page 37

SUFFERING FOR HER ART

As the woman in charge of editing the newly published 34-volume *Macmillan Dictionary of Art*, Jane Turner had, arguably, the worst job in the world. Page 19

Dr Thomas Stathodford looks at aggression in the home, genetic diseases, cases of adult asthma, and aid for the impotent. Page 18

Prometheus on fire: Michael Gove on Enoch Powell; Peter Ackroyd on George Eliot; Roy Jenkins on a collection of political sketches. Pages 38, 39

Holiday villages: Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has opened the door to more leisure complexes. Page 41

Executive stress: Businessmen are fed up of activity holidays and are flocking to "flop out" at all-inclusive Caribbean hotels. Page 41

Faced with Zaire's horrors, Europe has only repeated the usual eternal phrases which counsel moderation... the only admirable voice raised has been that of the Vatican, which has not minced words, denouncing the cowardice of the Western world, and calling for immediate "humanitarian intervention" by countries powerful enough to do the job. Page 21

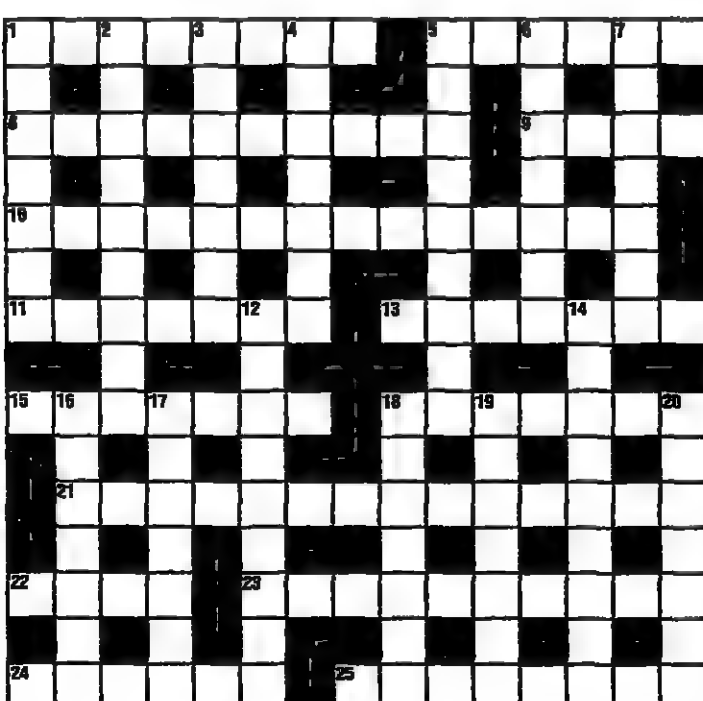
Teaching morals and virtue to the young: BBC licence fees, banning handbags, Opus Dei, Chamberlain's policy, Catholic bishops "sink" schools: second lottery draw. Page 21

IN THE TIMES

■ POP David Sinclair on the eagerly awaited debut album from the Spice Girls

■ INTERVIEW Valerie Grove meets the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,313



ACROSS

- 1 How much can one take in from a volume? (8).
- 5 Like the poet of Rome? (6).
- 8 This dramatic drew social complexity (5,5).
- 9 Not convincing in game (4).
- 10 Presumably it recoils after a killing (3,11).
- 11 Jury's recommendations about a smash-and-grab gang (7).
- 13 One likely to be skinted out by good howling (4,3).
- 15 Add distinction to dingy compound if imprisoned (7).
- 18 As old as lago was (7).
- 21 Sort of puff publication gives Arsenal? (6,8).
- 22 Man, say, tips flyer, forgetting the odds (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,312

AMATEUR INDICES
S L N A D A A I
S A I N T L I K E T U R I N
S C O R E O R G A N I A N S
B N C H O S T I I
B Y T H E S A M E P E R S O N
A A H M E G
M O U N T A I N E E R I N G
E P T A I N M E R
T A S T E A R L Y
V I A R N S A T T A L I O N
S E C S E D N E S E
U R S E A S O N R E T R E A T

DOWN

- 2 Unaccompanied fiddler? Something like that (6,4).
- 4 Change direction round Timeside for the finish (6).
- 25 Game in which the French thwart English (8).
- 1 Personal belongings in belt (7).
- 2 Crowd, getting on a bit, wrapping up (9).
- 3 Eat duck in record blow-out (7).
- 4 Slightly altered t-shirts and longs (7).
- 5 Plateau leader having another look through foresight (9).
- 6 Range of colours non-U girl used (7).
- 7 Warriors of strong spirit brought up in parts of Asia (7).
- 12 Additional fee concerning new student (9).
- 14 Openings in, for example, North, East, and South (9).
- 16 Motorway goes up over the hill into dead end (7).
- 17 A couple of presents unlocated (7).
- 18 Certainly not Duncan's complaint, according to Lady Macbeth (7).
- 19 Source of vocal or instrumental music (7).
- 20 Shake choirboy drowning end of anthem (7).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset 15C
66F; lowest day temp: Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire & Galloway 3C (46F); highest rainfall: Cape Town, 44.2mm; highest sunshine: Harrogate, 10.5 hrs; East Super 5 hrs

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have rain, but eastern England should be bright at first. Rain will spread east, clearing southeast England during the afternoon. Brighter weather will follow, but with drizzle over western coasts and hills. Very windy. Temperatures little above average.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain in the morning, but brighter, drier weather will spread from the northwest. Northern Scotland could see showers later. Very windy. Temperatures around average.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England: dry start. Rain spreading from west, clearing in the afternoon. Perhaps bright intervals later. Wind strong southwesterly, turning northwesterly later. Max 15C (59F).

Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N, NE England: rain in the morning, mainly dry in the afternoon. Bright intervals developing. Wind southwesterly, strong, perhaps gale, in exposed parts. Max 14C (57F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: rain soon clearing, but some patchy drizzle possible for a time. Brighter later. Wind southwesterly, strong to gale, turning westerly and moderating. Max 14C (57F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll: rain in the morning, mostly clearing by mid-afternoon. Some bright intervals. Wind strong southwesterly, turning northwesterly later. Max 13C (55F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rain, gradually turning more showery later. Wind variable, strong to gale force northwesterly later. Max 11C (52F).

N Ireland: rain soon clearing, but patchy drizzle for a time. Becoming brighter in the afternoon. Wind strong to gale westerly, turning northwesterly and moderating. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: rain at times, mainly in north at first. Windy. Average temperatures generally.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
London	15	15	15	15	15	15
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10	10	10
Glasgow	10	10	10	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10	10
Exeter	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10	10	10
Weymouth	10	10	10	10	10	10
Widnes	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10	10	10

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

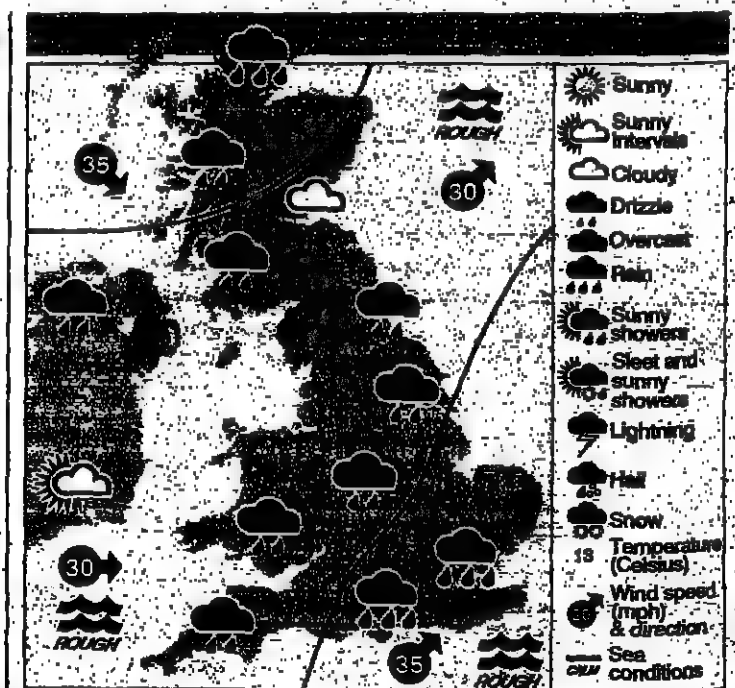
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
London	15	15	15	15	15	15
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10	10	10
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Belfast	10	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10	10
Exeter	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10	10	10
Weymouth	10	10	10	10	10	10
Widnes	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10	10	10

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10	10
Exeter	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10	10	10
Weymouth	10	10	10	10	10	10
Widnes	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10	10	10

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
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Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10	10
Exeter	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10	10	10
Weymouth	10	10	10	10	10	10
Widnes	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10	10	10



Changes to chart below from noon: low R will drift slowly while falling. Low A will move slowly NE, then start to fill. High D will remain fairly stationary and steady.



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Today: AM HT PM HT TODAY AM HT PM HT

Abertoun	3:40	4:00	4:05	4:00	Liverpool	1:25	1:40	1:51	1:37
Aberdeen	3:41	4:23	4:28	4:18	Lovestock				12:13 2:3
Belfast	3:41	3:41	3:41	3:41	Manx	2:29	2:49	2:50	2:45
Cardiff	3:43	4:13	4:10	4:08	Marquary	7:47	7:47	7:47	7:47
Derwent	8:08	8:22	8:22	8:29	Williamstown	6:11	6:11	6:11	6:11
Dover	1:22	1:25	1:21	1:21	Oban	7:57	7:57	7:57	7:57
Edinburgh	3:41	3:41	3:41	3:41	Oranmore	7:12	7:12	7:12	7:12
Falmouth	7:57	4:48	4:13	4:44	Panama	1:13	1:13	1:13	1:13
Genoa	3:07	3:15	3:14	3:17	Portsmouth	1:45	1:45	1:45	1:45
Harwich	3:39	3:38	3:28	3:39	Sharnhead	1:40	1:40	1:40	1:40
Hobart	0:42	0:42	0:42	0:42	Southampton	1:50	1:50	1:50	1:50
Port (Alber) D	6:54	7:17	6:59	6:59	Tasmania	6:16	6:16	6:16	6:16
Reims	3:23	3:23	3:23	3:23					

INSIDE SECTION

2
TODAY



BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant
at the cutting edge
of public spending
PAGES 25-34



TRAVEL

Mrs Bottomley
gives the British
industry some hints
PAGES 40, 41



SPORT

The driving force
that keeps Team
Monty on course
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY OCTOBER 31 1996

'Feel-better' factor materialises in time for election

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CONSUMER optimism is running at its highest level of the Nineties and should be higher still by the time of the general election, new figures show today.

While the study holds back from acknowledging the return of the long-sought-after "feel-good" factor, it acknowledges that consumers are feeling "pretty good" across almost the whole country.

Conservative party strategists are closely monitoring economic indicators in advance of the general election, and especially any

signs of a genuine return of consumer confidence, which they believe will be central to the Government's electoral prospects. The report from Business Strategies (BS), the economic consultancy that has close links with the Treasury and the CBI, shows that optimism about both the economy and household finances is running at a high level and is still improving. Bridget Rosewell, a BS director, is one of the Chancellor's external economic advisers who will tomorrow give guidance before the Budget next month.

The study's consumer sentiment index, drawn from a range of spending and other

factors, now stands at 20 - the highest figure this decade, though the rate of improvement in consumers' own household finances is slowing down.

Claiming that "consumers are feeling pretty good almost everywhere", David Fell, a BS director, said: "This survey's results are a good indicator that consumer confidence will be in pretty good shape by April-May" in time for the general election. But when asked whether the return of the "feel-good" factor would automatically be of electoral benefit to the Government, he replied: "I don't believe that a 'feel-good' factor on its own will be enough to ensure

electoral victory." Insisting that consumers need both to feel good for some time, and that any such feeling takes further time to translate into real spending, he said: "It's important in determining what happens in an election. Consumers will be feeling very optimistic, and consumer spending will be strong by the time of the election."

BS analysts see the Budget as vital to that, insisting that if interest rates remain broadly unchanged and the impact of the Budget is neutral, consumer spending will continue to rise and will be in an even better position by the likely time of the election. The BS study says that spending on so-

called big ticket items such as holidays and restaurant meals will improve more markedly than spending on day-to-day items.

The forecast comes after the Government published yesterday a new study setting out ways of improving Britain's hotel, tourism and restaurant sector, with Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, maintaining that tourism will be vital for the creation of both wealth and new jobs.

BS says that consumers are now less fearful about unemployment, and believe that low inflation is here to stay.

Fawcett Image, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		YIELD	
FTSE 100	2953.9	(-29.6)	
Yield	3.94%		
FTSE All share	1952.02	(-11.48)	
Nikkei	20681.67	(-276.41)	
Dow Jones	6017.08	(+10.08)	
S&P Composite	702.18	(+0.68)	

US RATE		YIELD	
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)	
Long Bond	100%	(100%)	
Yield	6.85%	(6.85%)	

LONDON MARKET		YIELD	
3-month Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)	
Libor 6m	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)	
Libor 12m	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)	

STERLING		YIELD	
New York	1.8325	(1.8325)	
London	1.8325	(1.8325)	
Frankfurt	2.4500	(2.4500)	
Paris	6.3115	(6.3115)	
SP	2.0398	(2.0398)	
Yen	185.50	(185.50)	
S Index	80.2	(80.2)	

DOLLAR		YIELD	
London	1.8325	(1.8325)	
Frankfurt	2.4500	(2.4500)	
Paris	6.3115	(6.3115)	
SP	2.0398	(2.0398)	
Yen	185.50	(185.50)	
S Index	80.2	(80.2)	

NORTH SEA OIL		YIELD	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	823.10	(823.10)	
London close	820.18	(820.18)	

* denotes midday trading price

SIB and Bank of England warn lenders

By Robert Miller

THE Bank of England yesterday warned banks and investment firms against making rash lending decisions and overpaying their star performers.

The Bank, together with the Securities and Investments Board, the senior City regulator, said that the banking cycle has reached "a critical point" for key strategic decisions about credit risk and its pricing.

In a clear reference to events at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Jardine Fleming, the watchdogs said "recent irregularities in two fund management firms have undermined the importance of effective management controls and a culture of compliance."

The concerns of the Bank and the SIB are outlined in a new joint venture, *The Financial Stability Review*, published yesterday.

In an article on the issues facing the financial sector, the City authorities took the unusual step of questioning the sustainability of current high profit levels.

They said: "The half-yearly results of the major clearing banks remain one of the main indicators of the performance of the UK financial sector. The most recent figures suggest that the banks are in good shape. They are strongly capitalised and, on that basis, well placed to expand their lending."

"But it is just at this point in the cycle that an over-expansion of lending can create problems for the future."

In a radical departure from its previously more behind-the-scenes approach to regulation, the Bank says: "With a combination of optimism about the economic future and competitive pressure to maintain market share, rigorous credit assessment often takes second place. This leads to imprudent loans being booked

during the up-turn, so that subsequent problems are more severe than they need be."

Nor is the warning over what one senior Bank insider described as "often just plain stupid lending" decisions confined to big corporate loans.

The review reiterates warnings about over-zealous competition in the domestic home loans market through schemes such as cash-backs and discounts and the desire of building societies, converting to bank status to maintain market share at all costs. Kevin Ryan from the Bank's supervision and surveillance department, says: "It would be of more direct supervisory pressure or a desire to maintain market share led to pressures on converting societies to reduce lending standards."

In a separate speech in London yesterday, echoing the watchdogs' general concerns

over City behaviour, Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, criticised City bonuses, some of which top £1 million. He said: "In today's competitive markets the rewards for successful individuals are very colossal. We all know that the best staff can make millions of pounds for their employer, that some may be difficult to manage and not look kindly on any action by a line manager which could suggest a lack of trust in their abilities, let alone their integrity."

Sir Andrew added: "Issues do arise about the balance between paying stars competitively, in order to retain the best, on the one hand, and on the other, the risk of incentivising such people to behaviour which is harmful and can lead to serious damage long-term, to the firm as a whole."

Pennington, page 27
City diary, page 29



Kenneth Clarke shows the colour of his money in the Radio 4 studios yesterday. The Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England later agreed a rise in base rates of one-quarter of a percentage point to 6 per cent

Sterling rises, shares fall

By Alastair Murray

STERLING rose to a two-and-a-half year high yesterday after the unexpected decision by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to raise rates by a quarter point to 6 per cent.

The pound's trade-weighted index closed up 1.1 at 90.2 after rising more than 2 cents against the dollar to \$1.6326 and from DM2.4315 to DM2.4607. But the FT-SE 100 fell back sharply on the news, closing down 29.6 points at 2,953.9.

Analysts broadly welcomed the Chancellor's move, arguing it could prevent more damaging rises in future. Tim Fox, international economist at Standard Chartered, said:

"By moving quickly now it limits the damage we could expect if he waited." The consensus in the City is that the recent rise in sterling enables the Chancellor to avoid a further rate rise before the general election although some analysts believe it will prove insufficient to curb the consumer boom.

But Jonathan Loyne, UK economist at HSBC markets, gave a warning that further rate rises and a consequent further increase in the value of the pound could seriously damage industry.

That view was echoed by business and union leaders, who gave a lukewarm reception to the rate increase. The

CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce said that the move was surprising, adding that investment plans and export competitiveness could suffer.

Brian Prime, chairman of the national policy unit of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "This could be the first step on the road to a series of increases which would adversely affect Britain's small firms' sectors."

Money-market analysts, however, predict that the pound's recent rise could continue.

Rate rise, page 1
Leading article, page 2
Pennington, page 27

P&O bears brunt of cartel's EU fine

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

P&O and four other cross-Channel ferry operators were fined a total of more than £500,000 by the European Commission yesterday for operating a price-fixing accord.

The Commission levied the largest fine of £320,000 on P&O, as the instigator of a cartel that it found had colluded in November 1992 to soften the impact of the pound's devaluation by imposing a surcharge on freight.

The arrangement, which operated for only two months, was deemed to breach article 85 of the Treaty of Rome, which covers the single market. Stena-Sealink, which was held to be a co-instigator, was ordered to pay £80,000. The three other companies - SeaFrance, Brittany Ferries and North Sea Ferries - each played a minor role and were fined £48,000, £48,000 and £20,000 respectively.

Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said: "The simultaneous application of the surcharges was only partly successful because of

the reluctance of the clients to the measure and was of short duration. That is why the Commission decided to impose moderate penalties on the ferry companies, while establishing higher fines for P&O and Stena-Sealink as they initiated and organised the concentration by taking the contacts and developing the calculation scheme for the tariff increase."

Separately, P&O reported better news on its short-sea Channel crossings, with 2.67 million passengers travelling on the Dover to Calais route, the one most severely hit by the opening of the Channel Tunnel, in the three months to September, 6.8 per cent down on the same period last year. This compared with a 12.1 per cent fall between the three months to June and the equivalent three in 1995.

The number of tourist vehicles carried fell 9.5 per cent in the third quarter (11.2 per cent dip in the second quarter). The drop in freight traffic eased to 3.6 per cent (6.9 per cent).

Sainsbury brings forward reshuffle

By Sarah Cunningham

J SAINSBURY yesterday reported a sharp drop in interim profits and, in apparent acknowledgement of the depth of its problems, said that it would bring forward a reshuffle of top management.

Dino Adriano, head of Homebase, will replace Tom Vyner as head of supermarkets in March rather than at the end of next year. Mr Vyner will remain deputy chairman, but will be in charge of international buying. David Sainsbury, chairman, said that the fast recruitment of a new head of Homebase would allow Mr Adriano to switch to supermarkets earlier than planned. He denied that institutional investors had put the company under any pressure to make management changes.

In the six months ended September 21, Sainsbury's pre-tax profit was £387 million, compared with £451 million a year ago. Earlier this year the company disclosed its first fall in annual profits in its 22 years as a public

company. Analysts yesterday reduced forecasts for the current year. NatWest Markets went from £725 million to £708 million while others dipped as low as £700 million. Sainsbury's is expected to earn less this year than Tesco, its arch rival.

The operating margin shrank to 6.4 per cent, from 7.8 per cent a year ago, partly because of the cost of launching the Reward loyalty card and the petrol price war.

Like-for-like stores sales growth, excluding petrol growth, was 2.7 per cent in the first half and is now near 3 per cent, in line with inflation but well below the sector average.

The Reward card is now being used by seven million customers. The proportion - 86 per cent - is the same as that of Tesco shoppers who have a Clubcard. The interim dividend is 3.5p (3.4p), payable on January 15.

Pennington, page 27
Diary, page 28

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Gas regulation in spotlight at start of utilities inquiry

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE first round of a parliamentary inquiry into energy regulation, which could set a framework on which Labour's utility tax will be calculated, began yesterday with gas thrust into the spotlight.

By early next year, the all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee will draft a report that will assess the extent to which electricity and gas companies have been under-regulated or over-regulated.

Such conclusions — the first from a public body — could provide a benchmark for a Labour government to draw up windfall taxes to serve on

the utilities. Although City analysts have pinned various figures on the amount of windfall tax that utilities could sustain while still offering reasonable investment potential, the committee's report would offer independent analysis.

Over the next few weeks the committee will hear evidence from companies on how they have been regulated and question regulators on their performance.

British Gas yesterday called for an overhaul of regulation. With the company and Ofgas currently stuck at the Monopolies and Mergers Commis-

sion over pricing controls for TransCo, Richard Giordano, chairman, told MPs: "Reform that tempers regulatory discretion and limits unpredictable intervention would benefit all stakeholders in regulated industries."

British Gas said that key weaknesses of the regulatory system were the amount of personal power of a regulator and the lack of accountability and transparency.

The National Consumers Council yesterday urged a halt to the second phase of the introduction of competition in domestic gas, only a day after the regulator announced two dates to enable one-and-a-half million more customers to shop around for gas.

The council said that the new trials to begin next year in the South East should not go ahead until problems in the first area — the South West — had been resolved.

Robin Simpson, acting director, said Ofgas's consultation over further opening the market glossed over serious problems faced by customers, played down marketing tactics, and proposed inadequate safeguards to protect users.

Top slot for Andersen

THE latest figures from Arthur Andersen show that it has, by a whisker, become the UK's biggest accountancy and professional services firm (Robert Bruce writes).

Net revenues from the consulting, accounting and business and law arms were £620.2 million, up 15 per cent on the year. This is marginally ahead of the

£619 million announced last month by the previous biggest firm, Coopers & Lybrand.

Global figures also released show that Andersen Worldwide has consolidated its place as the biggest firm in the world with a 17 per cent increase in fees taking global revenue to \$9.5 billion.



Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar leaving jail yesterday

Ex-BCCI treasurer walks free from jail

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE architect of the biggest banking fraud in British criminal history walked free from Brixton prison yesterday after the collapse of moves to extradite him on blackmail charges.

Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, former Treasurer of the Bank of Credit and Commercial International, was freed when US authorities decided not to appeal against a High Court order for his release.

The bank was shut in July 1991 by worldwide regulatory action after investigators discovered a fraud of up to \$20 billion.

Mr Akbar, aged 52, from Golders Green, north London, said as he left jail: "I am very much glad, very much."

He declined to say whether he would leave the UK. "For the time being, I don't know what I'm doing. At least for a couple of weeks, I will be spending time with my family, then I will decide what to do."

Mr Akbar, who has served three years of a six-year sentence for false accounting, criticised the Home Office over its handling of his extradition case.

He was arrested immediately after he was released after serving the sentence for false accounting and spent 14 months in jail facing extradition to the US.

UK 'against linkage of jobs and trade'

BRITAIN will "vigorously resist" attempts by the US to link trade liberalisation to minimum world employment standards, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said yesterday. The UK strongly urged countries not to try to use the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore to push their claim. The December meeting will be the first since the WTO was formed last year to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Organisation (GATT) after the successful completion of the Uruguay trade round.

Speaking to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House, Mr Lang said: "Britain will vigorously resist this linkage, which will only serve to slow down trade liberalisation and could even make social problems in the countries concerned even worse." Britain wanted to see progress on trade standards, public procurement, tariffs, professional services and information technology.

Defeat for Berlusconi

DOCUMENTS seized by the Serious Fraud Office from a company associated with the business empire of Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian prime minister accused of involvement in a £51 million fraud, were returned to Italy, the House of Lords ruled yesterday. The SFO seized the papers at the request of Italian authorities after executing a warrant under its Section 2 powers on the London offices of CMM Corporate Services, Peters & Peters, the law firm acting for the Italian media magnate, had challenged the seizure.

Emap acquires The Box

EMAP is paying \$12.5 million for The Box, a cable TV channel that is an interactive station which plays popular music videos requested by its audience. The channel, founded four years ago, is available to more than 1.3 million homes in the United Kingdom via cable networks and is expected to break even next year with a turnover of more than £2 million. This is the first television acquisition by Emap, which was part of a consortium that unsuccessfully bid for the ITV franchise for the Anglia region.

Pilat targets AIM

PILAT, which makes software used to process the results of school inspections, is joining the growing contingent of Israeli companies on the Alternative Investment Market. The company, which has been operating in the UK for 20 years, hopes to raise £3.5 million from the placing. While the UK makes up 65 per cent of its sales, it also runs subsidiaries in Hong Kong and Malaysia. The placing is sponsored by Raphael Zorn Henesly.

Safeway Inc wants Vons

AMERICA'S Safeway Inc has offered to buy the rest of Vons Cos Inc, another supermarket operator, in a deal that values Vons at \$3.25 billion and will create the country's second-biggest grocery store chain. Safeway Inc, which is not related to the UK's Safeway, already owns 34.5 per cent of Vons. Safeway Inc is offering to exchange 1.34 Safeway shares for each Vons share not owned by Safeway, valuing Vons at more than \$58 a share.

Accountancy change

FINANCIAL reporting rules for cashflow statements have been revised in a bid to make them simpler. The Accounting Standards Board (ASB) has released a revised version of its FRS1 standard, which it said will allow companies' worries. Treasury activities will now be shown in a new "management of liquid resources" section of the statement, which Sir David Tweedie, ASB chairman, said would "be the first genuine cashflow statement in the world". Accountancy, page 32

Limelight sets price

LIMELIGHT, manufacturer and retailer of fitted kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and conservatories, has confirmed its offer price range at 175p to 190p, valuing the company at between £175 million and £190 million. The intermediaries offer closes on November 13 and dealings start on November 15. Pro forma earnings per share of 10.6p for the year to December 31 give a price/earnings multiple of 16.5 to 17.9 times. The notional net dividend per ordinary share is 4.7p.

Xenova puts out pathfinder prospectus

Xenova Group, the UK-based biopharmaceutical company that is developing anti-cancer and heart disease drugs, published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday as it seeks to raise £25 million from a placing and full listing on the London Stock Exchange. The Nasdaq-quoted company, which develops drugs from natural micro-organisms, said its first product could be ready for market by 2000. The XRS000 anti-cancer drug is expected to enter clinical trials early next year. Terms of the placing, sponsored by Greig Middleton, and final listing details will be published in the second half of next month.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	18.09	18.39
Belgium F	19.02	48.2
Canada \$	2.270	2.110
Cyprus CypL	0.774	0.711
Denmark Kr	9.91	9.11
Finland Mk	7.88	7.21
France F	6.52	6.07
Germany DM	2.28	2.07
Greece Dr	398	373
Hong Kong \$	10.08	12.08
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.04	0.86
Israel Shk	1.63	4.86
Italy Lira	2581	2405
Japan Yen	197.90	181.50
Malta	2.617	0.585
Netherlands Gld	2.877	2.847
New Zealand \$	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	4.62	10.04
Portugal Esc	257.00	258.50
S Africa R	6.12	7.58
Spain Pta	211.50	196.00
Sweden Kr	11.19	10.39
Switzerland F	2.15	1.97
Turkey Lira	157800	148800
USA \$	1.707	1.577

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Reuters Bank Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS (NOTIFICATION) REGULATIONS 1996 (AS AMENDED BY THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS (NOTIFICATION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1996)

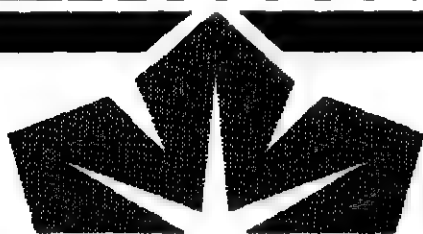
The United Kingdom is required to make declarations, in relation to certain chemicals and chemical production facilities, to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

To enable the United Kingdom to meet fully its obligations to submit accurate information to the OPCW, the Secretary of State has made the above Regulations. These require that those persons, companies and organisations specified in the Regulations provide the Secretary of State, on or before 15 January each year with full details of their name, their address (or in the case of a company the address of its principal or registered office) and the address of each plant site it operates.

The above notification details must be in writing and be sent or delivered to:

Chemical Weapons Authority
Department of Trade & Industry
King's Gate House,
66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW

For further information please contact the Chemical Weapons Authority on 0171 215 8222.



B.A.T. INDUSTRIES

£2 billion profit at nine months

Nine months unaudited results
to 30 September 1996

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£2,039m	+9%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	39.9p	+9%

- Pre-tax profit up 9% against last year's record nine months, with good progress from both the Group's businesses.
- Financial services profit up 3% at £846 million; sustained improvement in life business and continuing growth at Farmers.
- Tobacco profit up 7% to £1,265 million; volumes up 3% with strong sales growth in the Asia Pacific and Amesca regions.
- "The good progress in both the Group's businesses is being maintained but headlines have, once again, been dominated by US tobacco litigation."

After a full review of millions of pages of technical work and scientific research conducted by or for British-American Tobacco Company and Brown & Williamson, I would like to reassure shareholders that there has never been any concealment from the public of any conclusion establishing that smoking causes diseases. Indeed, the companies continue to support independent research without any restriction on publication."

Lord Cairns, Chairman

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T. Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

□ Dangers of strong sterling □ Dull outlook for Sainsbury □ Bank's warning, in a rougher form

Currencies beyond our Ken

HE DOES like his surprises, doesn't he, our Ken? Perhaps the City should have been better prepared for yesterday's interest rate rise, which might have prevented some of the unnecessary blind panic on the equity and currency markets.

Analysts, with the benefit of hindsight, which is how most of them like to operate, were able to interpret the rate rise as a typically canny political move ahead of the Budget, heading off pressure from the City and Eddie George at the Bank for a rise but leaving himself room to add a tax cut sweetener. Economically the case is less clear-cut, and that was reflected by the mixed reception Mr Clarke's move received in the City and industry.

The inflation hawks who welcomed the rise also believe that a quarter-point increase, especially when the mortgage lenders did not move too — will do little to apply the brakes on consumer spending. History is on their side. During the last upward movement in rates, in 1994-95, it took 1.5 per cent to bring the spending tide, rather undermining Mr Clarke's claims that a 0.25 per cent rise will do the trick.

The danger is sterling. That expectation of further rises is going to underpin the pound's recent advances. Sterling has now risen 6.5 per cent since August, equivalent to a 1.5 per cent rise in

base rates, according to the Treasury's rule of thumb. Currency speculators have been moving out of marks because of progress towards economic and monetary union. They are worried the strongly marked will be hit if too many weak economies such as Spain, Italy and Portugal are shoe-horned into EMU.

Older readers may have difficulty comprehending a flight from the mark to the pound as a safe haven currency, but that is the reality in Europe today. It leaves business organisations such as the CBI expressing concern that the strong pound, although good for raw material prices and so inflation, will damage their members' competitiveness abroad.

Trouble has always arisen when the economic cycle and the political cycle become uncoupled, making politicians do silly things in economic terms for political reasons. What has happened here is that the political cycle has become uncoupled from currency markets, which are reacting to other influences. Mr Clarke's strategy could then end up creating the worst of both

worlds — insufficient to rein back the consumer boom but too harsh for the fragile manufacturing sector. Bung in a tax cut and you are beginning to have the makings of an Eighties-style two-tier economy.

For now, yesterday's fall in stock markets, pushing the FT-SE 100 firmly below the 4,000 barrier again, looks overdone, because the factors that sent the FT-SE above that level are not going to be affected by a quarter point on interest rates. But do watch those currency markets. A pound stranded well above DM2.50 will bring its own problems.

Spice missing from store ingredients

IT IS always sad when the best news in a company's figures is the departure of one of the senior executives. Tom Vyner, deputy chairman of J Sainsbury and head of the supermarkets business itself, is being replaced early by Dino Adriano. Hardly fresh blood, though, as the new man has spent almost all his



working life at Sainsbury. The decline in recent years of what was once the middle class's preferred delicatessen has been startling. In public perception and in actual quality, there is now little to choose between Sainsbury, Tesco, the market leader, and Safeway or Asda, certainly in the case of new and purpose-built stores. There is no pressing reason for the shopper to walk past one to get to another.

At Sainsbury, like-for-like sales show growth keeping pace with inflation at 3 per cent. But this does not take into account store extensions, and so, in reality, sales volumes are dropping. In six months' time the picture will be worse. The only good news in the second half will

also be good news for its rivals — better margins on petrol, for example. Worst of all, the parvenu Tesco is expected to bring in a pre-tax profit for the year of up to £760 million, topping Sainsbury for the first time. After a wholesale downgrading yesterday, the latter is seen as producing a figure nearer £700 million.

Hard to imagine even a couple of years ago that Tesco would overtake Sainsbury not only in market share, but also in market capitalisation and then, finally and humblingly, in profits? These forecasts put Tesco and Sainsbury on the same market rating, at a price earnings ratio of about 14. Part of the decline has come from the delay in introducing a Sainsbury loyalty card — once these become standard across the sector, they are nothing more than deferred price cuts all around.

David Sainsbury spoke yesterday of the advantages in the US and opportunities in banking. What he did not offer was any suggestion as to how Sainsbury is going to recover that once unassailable position, or even stop its slide. He spoke of

providing a platform for "a solidly based recovery". One must wonder whether even he now believes his own words.

Prudence as things go in cycles

THE new instrument forged by the Bank of England and the Securities and Investments Board to put their views over to the financial markets is a subtle one. The *Financial Stability Review* is full of worthy pieces about international regulatory cooperation and sovereign risk, but the section that will most reward the reading is helpfully positioned at the front of the book.

Somebody or something called Prudence muses in honeyed, bankerish tones about the various issues of the day. All anonymous, but one does detect the influence of Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank and a man who relaxes by turning out the odd sentence or two for the quality press. One wonders how Eddie George, with his reputation for bluntness, would have phrased it.

Strangely enough, Mr George wrote an alternative draft, which was suppressed. Even stranger, a copy arrived here yesterday.

"We have just seen the half-way results from you banks, and surprise, surprise, even you can make a mint in this market. But what if and when it all turns sour again? All those spotty 23-year-olds shovelling the cash out to all comers, they wouldn't know a bad credit risk from their elbows. "Could you get your more experienced bankers — those who were out of short trousers by Big Bang, you must have a few still around — to remind said 23-year-olds that Things Go in Cycles and you don't have to lend to anyone who walks in the door. Meanwhile, set aside a few bob for a rainy day while you can. "Will this do? I could make it longer if you want."

One way trip?

THE dispute between Whitbread and David Lloyd has been so bitter and so public that the brewer must regard Australia as about far enough away. Whitbread's generosity in funding the £20 million man's new venture there is less easy to understand — unless the deal, like some earlier relocations to Botany Bay, includes a clause forbidding him from ever returning to these shores.

BAT dents hopes of imminent demerger

BY MARIANNE CURRIE

BAT INDUSTRIES, the tobacco and financial services group, yesterday dampened hopes of an imminent demerger of the two businesses. Martin Broughton, chief executive, said that a strategic review had shown such a move would not add shareholder value.

Mr Broughton said the company was not "obsessed by retaining the current structure", but if a demerger could be shown to improve cashflow, then he would consider it.

BAT's share price, which has fallen from a high of around 580p at the end of last year, slipped to 427p after the company reported its pre-tax profits for the first nine months of the year. The performance of the shares has been hit by concerns over litigation in the United States against BAT and other companies.

Lord Cairns, chairman, insisted the company had never kept from the public "any conclusion establishing that smoking causes disease".

Reporting a 9 per cent rise in

pre-tax profits to £2.04 billion (1995: £1.87 million), Mr Broughton revealed that Eagle Star, part of the company's financial services division, had made a £91 million provision for environmental claims in the United States. This brings the total provision for pollution and asbestos liability to £308 million.

David Alvey, group finance director, said the number of claims had been unexpectedly high, although most were for small amounts.

The total trading profit for financial services rose 3 per cent to £846 million.

Eagle Star's worldwide underwriting loss deteriorated to £108 million, from £38 million for the same period last year. Eagle Star's profit for the nine months was £32 million lower at £162 million.

In the general business markets remained competitive and worldwide gross premium fell 12 per cent to £15 billion. In the UK, personal lines premium income was 23 per cent lower, partly because of the loss of the Motability motor business. In the life business, worldwide gross premium income including unit trusts rose to £733 million.

In the tobacco division, total trading profits rose 7 per cent to £1.3 billion. Overall cigarette volumes were up 3 per cent, with strong sales in the Asia Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, and southern and central Asia. However, the company said cigarette sales in Europe had been disappointing and sales in the US had been static.

Earnings per share rose 9 per cent to 39.9p.

Times, page 28



Haynes Publishing, well-known for its car repair manuals, is moving up from the USM to a full listing. John Haynes, right, chairman and founder, and Max Pearce, the chief executive, celebrated record profits of £5.5 million last year

Break point for David Lloyd

BY ALAN DAVID MURRAY

WHITBREAD has revealed that David Lloyd is stepping down as non-executive chairman of David Lloyd Leisure, ending the often acrimonious relationship between the brewing company and the former tennis star since Whitbread paid £200 million to take over the tennis and fitness chain last year (see Pennington, this page).

Mr Lloyd, who made a personal profit of £20 million from the Whitbread sale, yesterday said he had decided to leave the

company because he wanted to spend more time pursuing other business interests. He is close to starting two new David Lloyd clubs in Australia and is also keen on opening up in China. Whitbread has said that it is considering investing in the Australian sites.

Mr Lloyd remained on the board of David Lloyd Leisure as executive chairman after the takeover last year. But he is understood to have been unhappy with the style of management that Whitbread introduced to the organisation and felt he was being increasingly sidelined by the

Whitbread executive team. In July it was agreed that Mr Lloyd would step down from an executive position but would continue in a consultative role as non-executive chairman of the company.

It is understood that Mr Lloyd, who was on a three-year rolling contract worth £200,000 a year, will not be paid compensation. Mr Lloyd is believed to be keen to increase his involvement with Britain's Davis Cup tennis team and recently became a non-executive director of Clubhaus, the golf club operator, investing £100,000 in the company.

Changes at Deutsche Bank to mend image

BY ROBERT MILLER

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest bank and the owner of Morgan Grenfell, has strengthened its main board with the appointment of a top European banker to head its market risks and treasury division.

Josef Ackermann, 48, formerly president of the executive board of Credit Suisse, has joined the Deutsche board of managing directors. Hilmar Kopper, 61, will leave the main group board next May to join its supervisory board, together with Ulrich Cartellieri, 59. Ellen Schneider-Lenne, 54, is leaving the group because of ill-health.

The recent problems at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the bank's investment arm, over alleged irregularities with three of its European unit trusts has clouded the fact that the parent company has suffered its fair share of embarrassment. The bank has suffered heavy losses and adverse publicity over Metallgesellschaft, the metals group, and Jurgen Schneider, the property tycoon.

The main board changes yesterday, with Mr Kopper moving upstairs and the recruitment of the highly respected Dr Ackermann, are clear signals to shareholders, the market and analysts that Deutsche intends to restore its international standing.

LVMH takeover of luxury goods group contested

BY NOEL FUNG

LVMH, the French luxury goods company, has made a bold move into retailing by spending Fr12.6 billion for a controlling stake in DFS Group, an American business known for selling expensive perfumes and jewellery in airports and hotel lobbies.

However, the deal is being opposed by Robert Miller, who founded DFS along with Charles Feeney in 1961. Mr Miller, a billionaire, still has a 38.75 per cent stake in DFS.

According to *The New York Times*, Mr Miller has filed a petition in the New York County Supreme Court for a temporary restraining order to block the sale. He claims it violated an agreement the partners signed in 1991.

DFS, a private company, employs 9,500 staff worldwide and has annual sales of more than \$3 billion. It prides itself on 20 years of retail experience

in Asia, trading from 180 boutiques, many around the Pacific Rim. About 10 per cent of its sales come from LVMH products.

Mr Feeney and Alan Parker, DFS's tax lawyer, are believed to be among the DFS shareholders who have agreed to sell a 58.75 per cent stake in the company to LVMH.

Myron Ullman, chairman and chief executive officer of DFS, said: "After 35 years, it is understandable that some of DFS's owners have different priorities and interests that have prompted them to explore new opportunities."

LVMH said that it intended to retain DFS's autonomous status and management team. The acquisition would "intensify LVMH's presence in the Asia-Pacific region and emerging markets, a key area for future growth", the group added.

NatWest Interest Rates

Interest rates applicable to Business Overdraft Agreements and Business Loan Agreements are increased by 1/4% per annum with effect from 31 October 1996.

"This notice does not apply to agreements which specify the rate as fixed or linked to Base Rate."

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E. CANTONA

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares stay below 4,000 as rate rise takes its toll

THE first rate rise in two years caught the Square Mile on the hop and left both government securities and share prices nursing some hefty falls.

The quarter-point increase in 6 per cent was announced after the monthly economic meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

The news succeeded in scuppering an early attempt by the FT-SE 100 index to recover the high ground back above the 4,000 level which it relinquished on Tuesday. The index saw an early Wall Street inspired 17-point rise replaced with a fall of 35 points. But another positive start by the Dow Jones enabled the FT-SE 100 to close just off the bottom last night, finishing 29.6 down at 3,963.9.

The speed with which market-makers reacted to news of the cut prevented institutional investors unloading stock, so selling pressure proved minimal. By the close 721 million shares had been traded.

Richard Jeffrey, economist at Charterhouse, says it is as a positive move to counter inflationary pressures already building up in the economy. "Gilt will set the path equities are likely to follow. The gilt market certainly remains anxious about the outlook for inflation," he said.

Double-figure falls were commonplace among blue chips. Zeneca fell 15.1p to 16.96, Glaxo 14.1p to 956p, Reed International 12.1p to 115.25p, and ICI 10.1p to 793p. Consumer related issues also took a hit with Boots off 12p to 616p, Next 11p to 563p, EMI 10p to 12.16p, Rediff and Columbia 10p to 708.5p, and Unilever 10p to 422.8p.

Grand Metropolitan was a dual market loser, 3.1p to 466.1p on claims it is ready to pay £1 billion-plus for the Dutch group Koninklijke Boswessens.

The stores sector was marked lower amid fears that dealer money could damage the revival in consumer confidence. Marks & Spencer fell 5p to 514p, Dixons 3.1p to 551.1p, Fine Art Developments 7p to 466.1p, and Thorne 6.1p to 351.1p.

The speculators appear to be getting their wires crossed at Vodafone, where the price touched 245p before settling just 2.1p better at 236p.



An upbeat David Sainsbury saw the chain's shares rise 8.1p

Early talk in the Square Mile suggested that American Telephone & Telegraph, the US telecoms group, wanted to bid for the company. Much of the activity in the shares appears to have been conducted on the traded options market where one investor gave heavily for the call. At these levels Vodafone carries a price tag of £7.1 billion, but has seen its

Like-for-like sales kept pace with inflation in the first six months as pre-tax profits tumbled from £456 million to £393 million. The group was upbeat about current trading and David Sainsbury, chairman, is looking forward to a busy run-up to Christmas with its loyalty and credit cards used by seven million customers. Margins in the supermarkets

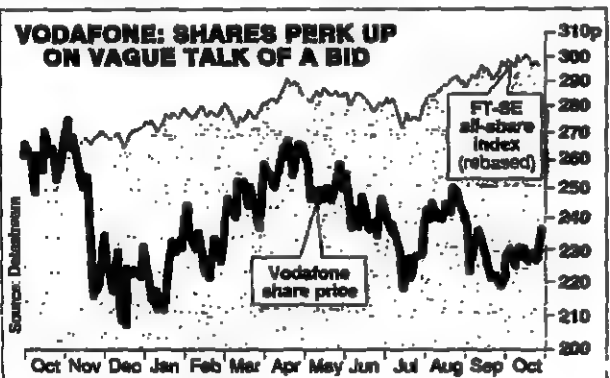
Dieter Bock's sale of his 18 per cent Lorrho stake to Anglo American does not appear to have gone down well with City speculators. It seems they would have preferred a much tidier solution, such as a full bid. Lorrho slipped 13p to 150.1p, against the 180p a share Bock is expected to sell his stake for.

share price slip amid signs that the growth in the mobile telephone market was starting to slow. Brokers do not rule out the possibility of a joint venture, at some stage, between Vodafone and AT&T.

The City gave a cautious welcome to half-year figures from J Sainsbury as it threw down the gauntlet in an attempt to win back its role as Britain's biggest food retailer.

were stable and improving in petrol retailing. Sainsbury rose 8.1p to 363.1p. Elsewhere, Tesco rose 2.1p to 326p, and William Morrison Supermarkets 3.1p to 160p.

BAT Industries fell 9p to 427p and now stands 5p above the low for the year as it highlights the continuing problems of litigation in the US over cancer-related dis-



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

ease. Third-quarter profits were in line with expectations. A complete demerger remains an option.

A profits warning left Wellman nursing a fall of 13.1p to 35.1p. Brokers who follow the company, such as Peel Hunt, have slashed their forecast from £11.5 million to £7.25 million.

Havecock Europa was also hit by a profits warning, leaving the shares 8.1p down at 283p. Sizeable costs and production disruption will hold back profits at the construction group this year. Brokers had been looking for a final figure of between £7.5 million and £8 million, but are now expected to downgrade their estimates.

Details of a major restructuring of its network of dealerships also took its toll of Evans Halshaw, the vehicle distributor, with the price finishing 5.1p easier at 248.1p. Brokers are expected to downgrade their profit estimates for the current year.

Yesterday's falls will not provide the best backdrop for this morning's public debut of Lardier Interiors, which supplies tropical plants to corporate clients. Even so, the issue looks to have the support of the institutions and is expected to open at a 15p premium to 114p placing price. Brokers say the shares are worth buying up to 186p.

□ GILT-EDGED: The quarter-point rise in rates surprised the market. Early gains were given up as the yield curve flattened, with issues at the short end of the market suffering falls of around 5p. Prices at the longer end were less affected and closed either unchanged or a couple of ticks firmer. Index-linked issues also came under selling pressure.

In futures the December series of the long gilt was £110 lower at £109.12 in heavy trading that saw a total of 131,000 contracts completed. Around 20,000 contracts, alone, were completed during the lunch hour.

In loans, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £1.16 to £101.12, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 dropped £1.16 to £103.16.

□ NEW YORK: On Wall Street a bond market weakened by profit-takers restrained advances in shares and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.06 points ahead at 6,017.08.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6017.08 (+10.06)
S&P Composite	732.18 (+0.68)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	23683.67 (+276.41)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	12405.47 (+213.30)
Amsterdam:	
EDS Index	577.59 (+1.46)
Sydney:	
ASX	2306.77 (+13.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2678.73 (+5.12)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2084.02 (+21.04)
Brussels:	
General	9987.63 (+15.08)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2124.76 (+0.98)
Zurich:	
SIX	777.30 (+0.30)
London:	
FT 100	3963.9 (-29.6)
FTSE 100	3963.9 (-29.6)
FTSE 250	4258.3 (-4.9)
FTSE 350	1771.1 (-1.2)
FTSE 400	1754.97 (-3.17)
FTSE 500	1652.02 (-11.48)
FT 1000	2044.26 (-12.01)
FT 1000 Index	115.46 (+0.15)
FT 1000 Index	93.88 (+0.02)
FT 1000 Index	70.16
FT 1000 Index	1.4326 (+0.0218)
FT 1000 Index	2.4697 (+0.0022)
FT 1000 Index	93.24 (+1.1)
FT 1000 Index	1.3800
FT 1000 Index	153.8 Sep 2.194 Jan 1997/100
FT 1000 Index	157.6 Sep 2.194 Jan 1997/100

RECENT TRENDS

Beechcroft	161.1
Charles Taylor	161.1
Delcon Elect (150)	161.1
Elect Retail Sp	161.1
Eurasia Mining	305
Fitness First	90.4
Geo Interactive/100	103.9
Hartstone 8% Cum	121
Healthcare Reform	362.5
Imperial Tobacco	362.5
Innovative Tech	165.4
John David Sports	297.1
Lavender	157.1
Lofus Road (72)	75
Lombard Under	130
Meat Group	12
Orbital Resources	205
Thistle Hotels (170)	168
Ultra Electronics	205.1
Victory Corp	54

RECENT TRENDS

Brooke Tool n/p (125)	3.4
Caplan Energy n/p (125)	3.4
Capital Tech n/p (125)	3.4
Celsis Ltd n/p (100)	4
Clyde Swins n/p (265)	1
Euro Leds n/p (145)	17.1
Prism Rail n/p (245)	120

RECENT TRENDS

RISER:	
Photobank	336p (+23p)
Corcoran	185p (+11p)
Gramplan	300p (+8p)
Business Post	480p (+10p)
Yates Bros	339p (+7p)
Wendy Gap	317p (+7p)
Border TV	301p (+8p)
Parly	318p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Ceredon	241p (-10p)
Havecock Euro	285p (-84p)
Torlans	257p (-6p)
Tomkins	730p (-10p)
Blue Circle	298p (-10p)
BAT	427p (-9p)
Redford	424p (-9p)
Wessell	297p (-7p)
Cookson	237p (-7p)
Nichols (V)	205p (-4p)

Closing Prices Page 33

Fears not to be sniffed at

YOU need a thick skin to survive as a BAT shareholder. Fans are prepared to take a philosophical view of the interminable tobacco litigation which has yet to cost the company a penny in claims. But yesterday's bad news had a more direct impact on their pockets: a £360 million provision for environmental damage claims in the United States, including a £91 million provision for Eagle Star. Worse still, BAT was unable to say whether or not the sudden surge in claims will continue.

The claims have a nasty ring to them - asbestos and pollution liability arising from business written in the 1960s through to the 1980s - and the provision dragged down Eagle Star's trading profit, leading to disappointing results from financial services. A word like asbestos will hang over the share price until the total cost can be clarified.

Eagle Star already faces fierce competition in the general insurance market, and hopes of a rise in motor and household premiums have failed to materialise. Elsewhere, financial services performed well. Farmers, the US subsidiary, increased its trading profit, and Allied Dunbar wrote more life and investment business.

BAT is still pushing tobacco hard in the Third World and it is hard to argue that the scope for growth is impressive, but yesterday's results were mixed. European sales, particularly Romania and Russia, were disappointing, and the US was static. Litigation fears have flattened BAT shares and the uncertainty could continue until 1998. BAT may win the Carter case on appeal, but it needs more than the absence of bad news if it is to attract buyers.

Evans Halshaw

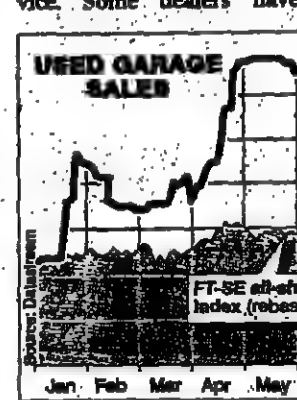
AFTER years on the road, the wheels are beginning to wobble on the motor dealer industry's ageing banger. Rather than wait for an accident, it has pulled into a lay-by to take stock of the situation. Too much weight on the axle seems to be the conclusion. Both Lex Service and Evans Halshaw have decided to jettison the no-hopers from their collection of dealerships.

The spur to action by motor dealers is said to be new rules by their masters, the car manufacturers, who want fewer dealers and larger territories. That would permit firms like Evans to operate in an area from a number of large sites with satellite shops; hence the scope for lower costs. Evans sees the £11 million restructuring generating an addi-

British Gas

tion of 0.4 per cent to an operating margin of 1.9 per cent.

Clearly that is not enough to revive the industry. Dealers went mad in the 1980s and more recently, building up capacity, but the public are behaving badly - they want both supermarket prices and individual service. Some dealers have



Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

Betterware

WITH British Gas beating the Select Committee on Trade and Industry about 'that horrid regulator', it is easy to forget about British Gas Energy. If the company's demerger plans are to be believed, investors will eventually have a share in a business supplying gas to you and me and one that is not regulated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets.

No one has a clue what British Gas Energy is worth. The recent free-market gas trials in the South West suggested the outlook was not so bad. Only 70,000 labour 10 per cent of customers switched to competitors. Of course, the whole thing was a bit of a free market mess with the local regional electricity company pulling in its horns after being reprimanded. Further trials next year in the South East could be more damaging: consumerism tends to increase in urban areas, the marketing should be more

British Gas

sophisticated and there will be more players.

Still, British Gas Energy is interesting because it is seen as a busted flush. It needs to sort out its take-or-pay contracts and will have to trade its assets for lower-priced gas from Shell and BP. While British Gas Energy has customers (still), Shell and BP have cheap gas and there is the making of a deal. Of course, British Gas will be reluctant to sell its consumer business to Shell or BP until it knows what it is worth. Hence, the demerger. But a company with its back to the wall might accept an offer.

Betterware

ANDREW COHEN, Betterware's boss, still struggles to convince the doubters about his door-to-door houseware operation. It was he, after all, who contributed to the downward spiral of the company's share price. In 1993, not long after indicating his money

Betterware

was staying in the business, the family sold a sizeable holding. Add to that growing unease about the sustainability of its growth and concerns about over-expansion, it was alarm bells rather than dog bells that were ringing.

Now, with the restructuring of its trading subsidiaries, Mr Cohen can safely argue that the worst is long behind him. In the mature UK market, sales are holding up well. Overseas, high cost expansion has been replaced by a more conservative approach, principally through joint ventures where it can exploit the experience of companies such as Asda.

Betterware

That said, investors don't need an elephantine memory to remain a little nervous about the stock. The cautious will wait for stronger evidence of the overseas potential before committing themselves. Those who got burnt first-time round may wait longer still.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LIFE				COMMODITIES			
ICE-LOR (London 6/100)				ICE-LOR (London 6/100)			
Contract	Open	High	Low	Contract	Open	High	Low
Dec	102.810	102.810	102.810	Dec	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jan	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jan	102.810	102.810	102.810
Feb	102.810	102.810	102.810	Feb	102.810	102.810	102.810
Mar	102.810	102.810	102.810	Mar	102.810	102.810	102.810
Apr	102.810	102.810	102.810	Apr	102.810	102.810	102.810
May	102.810	102.810	102.810	May	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jun	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jun	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jul	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jul	102.810	102.810	102.810
Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810	Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810
Sep	102.810	102.810	102.810	Sep	102.810	102.810	102.810
Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810	Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810

COMMODITIES

ICE-LOR (London 6/100)				ICE-LOR (London 6/100)			
Contract	Open	High	Low	Contract	Open	High	Low
Dec	102.810	102.810	102.810	Dec	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jan	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jan	102.810	102.810	102.810
Feb	102.810	102.810	102.810	Feb	102.810	102.810	102.810
Mar	102.810	102.810	102.810	Mar	102.810	102.810	102.810
Apr	102.810	102.810	102.810	Apr	102.810	102.810	102.810
May	102.810	102.810	102.810	May	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jun	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jun	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jul	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jul	102.810	102.810	102.810
Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810	Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810
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Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810	Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810

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Apr	102.810	102.810	102.810	Apr	102.810	102.810	102.810
May	102.810	102.810	102.810	May	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jun	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jun	102.810	102.810	102.810
Jul	102.810	102.810	102.810	Jul	102.810	102.810	102.810
Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810	Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810
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Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810	Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810

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Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810	Aug	102.810	102.810	102.810
Sep	102.810	102.810	102.810	Sep	102.810	102.810	102.810
Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810	Oct	102.810	102.810	102.810</

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Robinson ad lib takes AIM

GEORGE ROBINSON was in fine fettle on Tuesday night, entertaining guests at the inaugural awards dinner of the Alternative Investment Market.

Fired by his confidant, the Labour MP for Coventry North West, and founder of TransTec, the engineering group, took to the stage like a man who had made the most of his meal. Casting aside his prepared notes, on public sector borrowing and tax, Robinson ad libbed, stumbling across the stage at the same time. Anyone who had looked forward to a rousing speech on Labour and the City might well have been a little disappointed. Robinson made his exit, eventually, and headed for the House of Commons to vote on the Queen's speech.

Bank's Prudence

EVER wanted to know who holds sway at the Bank of England? Then dip into *Financial Stability*, the first edition of the Bank's new magazine, written in association with the Securities and Investments Board. The guts of the publication, that appear opposite a piece by, and photograph of, Howard Davies, is cryptically signed "Prudence". The somewhat prim sounding scribbler takes the name from the Deputy Governor's wife — Pru Keely, a freelance producer for Channel 4 news and mother of their two young sons.



"Now we shall all have to increase our fares to pay our fines"

Vynier casts off

SO, TOM VYNIER is to move aside as head of the J Sainsbury supermarket business in March, making way for Dino Adriano. At the age of 61, he will fully retire from the business at the end of 1997. Vynier explains that he stayed on at the request of David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive, having originally planned to retire at 58. Once he is finally released from his duties at Sainsbury's, his intention is to head for Majorca, where a boat has been moored for the past 18 months, patiently awaiting his arrival.

Musical note

ANALYSTS waited into BAT's meeting yesterday to the sound of Verdi's *La Traviata* (Act 2, Scene 2). The "Jolly" piece was chosen by Michael Priddy, opera buff and director of group affairs at the tobacco company, who tells me that he was inspired by a recent production. Priddy also lets slip that BAT sponsored a production of the opera at Glyndebourne in 1987. At BAT's results day, which normally falls on national Non-Smoking Day, a piece from *Carmen* is usually selected.

What cut?

TOO quick for its own good, the British Chamber of Commerce whipped off a press release yesterday — "Chambers Express Surprise at Rate Cut". According to the poor stooge left to take the flak, "it does contain a slight mistake, and, yes, we are very embarrassed".

MORAG PRESTON

Both contenders have delivered their opening Budget punches. In the blue corner, the real Chancellor has prepared financial markets for tax cuts. By allowing steady Eddie his symbolic quarter-point base rate rise, canny Ken told the world he was not going to put anti-inflation disciplines on hold just because of an election. Whatever is actually the case.

By winding monetary policy one notch tighter, the Chancellor also seemed to leave room for a laxer vote-winning fiscal policy. That may be more apparent than real. Before the rate rise, the National Institute somewhat cynically reckoned that he should increase taxes by about £3 billion a year but would probably cut them by £4 billion.

Given the usual raid on the contingency reserve and some extra asset sales, that might be possible. But Mr Clarke could not go further in his Budget judgment. He could not honourably forecast a Budget deficit that barely scraped through the Maasricht test. Regardless of the UK's attitude to a European currency, extra government borrowing should be nowhere near 3 per cent of national income after six straight years of output growth.

That Budget judgment is, thankfully, not the beginning and end of Budget-making. There is endless scope for a creative Chancellor to arrange the tax burden better. That means he can also offer far more popular measures than the net change in taxes might suggest. The Treasury has already stopped up special dividend and share buyback loopholes that it modestly reckons to be worth £400 million a year. Tax

Taxing but painless ways to cut the social security bill



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

relief on profit-related pay, now thought to be running at £15 billion a year, should be in its sights. PRP was a good idea at the time, but was constructed to encourage its use as a loophole to save tax on existing pay rather than merely making pay rises conditional on company performance. Tax advisers duly obliged. The scheme is now ripe to be wound up as gently as possible.

From the red corner, challenger Gordon Brown has tirelessly preempted the Chancellor by putting forward a use for £450 million of this extra tax revenue that is as fiscally sensible as it is politically embarrassing. He has pledged to cut VAT on domestic fuel back from 8 per cent, where it was stranded by a government defeat in the Commons, to 5 per cent, which is the least that the European Union's VAT harmonisation rules would now permit.

The genuine benefit of such a move is that it would actually help to cut government spending and start a virtuous fiscal circle of lower taxes and spending. Levying VAT on domestic fuel was, on that test, one of the worst tax decisions in living memory. For every £3 it raised, the Government has had to spend almost £1 extra to compensate for the ensuing price rises. This was a peculiar

case, because the tax fell most heavily on the spending of poorer pensioners. So Tory backbenchers rightly insisted that they should be given peculiar compensation above the rise in the retail price index.

More generally, taxes that raise the price of goods in the RPI basket pump up public spending because most social security benefits are linked to the RPI and are automatically updated in line with prices to maintain minimum living standards. On average, to raise £5 in extra tax on everyday goods, the government has to spend £1 or more in extra benefits. Social security

accounts for about a third of all government spending, and it is the burgeoning, least controlled third. By boosting welfare spending, switches from direct to indirect taxes since 1979 have increased the total tax burden by up to 2 per cent of national income. That is a lot of tax. If the Chancellor could give it all back next month, we would put flags out all over Britain. But many would soon furl them again if he raised direct taxes heavily in the process, even though total taxes would be much lower. Reform must be more subtle.

Income taxes, if badly structured, can have as malign an effect on public spending as extra taxes on household spending. They not only can, they do. The tax threshold is so low that millions of poor people are, in effect, being paid benefits to make good their income tax deductions. Low-income families with a single earner are most affected because the social security system rightly allows for family circumstances. The income tax system, wrongly, does not.

Nonsensical tax policies have been ratcheting public spending ever higher for decades. The feedback between taxes and spending has been ignored because classical textbooks on public finance fail to mention

it. Since it is not obligatory to have a social security backstop (unless you live in a democracy), the theory does not need to accommodate it. Even the Institute for Fiscal Studies, usually pragmatic as well as objective, reckons that the impact of taxes on poor people is more efficiently dealt with through the welfare system.

Ratcheting up the tax burden through needless extra spending is not efficient. It damages the economy. Redesigning the tax system to reverse this trend should be the top fiscal priority when most agree that the tax burden is too high for the economy's comfort. The trouble is that popular taxes or taxes that do not distort markets are equally rare. Loophole-filling aside, it is not politically easy to shift the tax burden advantageously. But it is possible.

The Chancellor has made some well-judged moves in this direction. Taxes on landfill or air travel are either avoidable or have little impact on the RPI. Stamp duties, another great tax on these tests, could usefully be extended to credit card transactions and much else. The ceiling for employees' National Insurance contributions could be raised. Proceeds of such imposts should be used to stop those requiring benefits from paying income tax and to make sure Budgets cut the RPI, not raise it.

The prize is worth it. If every tax and every tax proposal were vetted for its impact on public spending, you could actually believe a politician who promised to cut the tax burden without any impact on the public services, the welfare net and the income transfers we pay our taxes to finance.

Computer wars get personal with plans to shut Gates out

Richard Thomson looks at the fierce challenge to Microsoft from the new Network Computer



Bill Gates, the software giant, faces new computers that sidestep his Microsoft programs

Even by the standards of the ever-turbulent computer industry, this week is seeing something unusual. The endless skirmishing between rival companies is turning uglier and more urgent. It's war, and a spate of announcements over the past few days show how the battle lines have been drawn.

At stake is the future shape of the industry: what kind of computer you have at home and in the office next year, what tasks it will be able to do and, crucially, what it will cost. On the outcome may hang the futures of multi-billion dollar, world-class companies such as Microsoft, Intel and IBM — not to mention the personal fortunes of many of the computer industry's most powerful moguls.

On one side stand Microsoft and Intel, the two colossi that together almost invented the personal computer. On the other is a formidable array of rivals, including IBM, Apple Computer, Oracle Corp (the second largest software group after Microsoft) and Sun Microsystems, that want to overthrow the PC and replace it with a simpler and far cheaper machine with the generic name of Network Computer (NC).

The NC is a stripped-down PC with no hard drive and does not use Microsoft software. It connects easily to the Internet or an internal corporate network and handles the most popular functions, such as word processing and financial spreadsheets. It is much simpler to use because it does not answer your phone, play 3D computer games or take dictation like ordinary PCs and does not go wrong so often. It also costs about \$500, about a quarter of the price of an average PC.

On Tuesday, Sun Microsystems, led by Scott McNeally, its chief executive, announced its version of the NC, the Java Station. On the same day, IBM began taking orders for its NC, and Oracle is also announcing a similar product. On Monday, Oracle and Netscape, the upstart software company that dominates Internet programs, announced an alliance in which they will pool resources to provide software for NCs. All of these companies have already agreed on common standards for their machines.

Meanwhile, Microsoft and Intel are hitting back, with an announcement made on Monday of plans for a Simply Interactive PC (SIPC), which is the old-style of personal computer that has, in theory, been made as easy to use as your stereo system. By streamlining the old PC, Microsoft and Intel are hoping to preserve its popularity against the new-

style network computers. Heavyweight manufacturers such as Compaq and Hewlett Packard have pitched their tents in the Microsoft camp.

And this time, the battle is personal. Larry Ellison, the aggressive, multi-billionaire founder of Oracle, has stated publicly that he is out to get Bill Gates, multi-billionaire founder of Microsoft. "Maybe

I should fire a few Maverick missiles into his living room," said Mr Ellison, who is currently negotiating to buy a redundant MiG fighter plane from the Russians as his latest executive toy. Mr Ellison aims to break Mr Gates's stranglehold on the PC market by destroying the PC market itself.

Mr Ellison is driven by a vision. Only 30 per cent of US

households and 10 per cent of European and Japanese families own a PC, compared with 90 per cent ownership of telephones and televisions. He believes that computers should have 90 per cent penetration, but that this can be achieved only if computers become easier to use, and far cheaper.

Most people, he insists, use only a fraction of the facilities

included in their all-singing, all-dancing PCs. Modern desktops, in spite of their massive computing power, are often slower than they were a few years ago because of the huge, expensive and unnecessary volume of software packaged inside them.

NCs will also be a boon to most businesses, Mr Ellison says. Many businesses are growing disillusioned with the high cost of maintaining PCs. A \$2,000 PC, for instance, can cost a corporation anywhere from \$6,000 to \$12,000 a year to run. By contrast, NCs, which get their software from the Internet or a company's internal "intranet" run from a mainframe, or server, cost a fraction of that amount to maintain. A number of large US companies have recently announced that they are junking their over-expensive PCs and switching to a network of NCs.

If NCs replace PCs, as Mr Ellison thinks that they will, the industry giants' lifeblood may be abruptly cut off. On the hardware side, Intel makes 90 per cent of its microprocessors from PCs. Its profitability depends on producing ever-faster chips, which it does with brilliant efficiency, and selling them on high margins.

A 75 MegaHertz chip sells for about \$60, and a 200Mhz chip (at the top end for speed) sells for \$500, but their production costs are almost the same. NCs, however, need only the slower, less expensive chips one reason they are cheaper to buy. If they start replacing PCs, Intel will have to sell more lower-margin chips, which would have a devastating effect on its profits.

For Microsoft, the implications are just as dire. Its dominance rests on its PC software, which runs on 90 per cent of all PCs sold. However, NCs do not contain any software themselves since they simply download it as they need it from whatever network to which they are connected. If they replaced PCs, sales of Windows 95 and most of Microsoft's other programs would crash.

Moreover, Microsoft does not control the standard software of the Internet in the way that it controls PC software. Instead, Sun's new computer language, Java, is being touted by many companies as the Internet standard and the one that most NCs will use.

William Milton, computer industry analyst with Brown Brothers Harriman, said: "We're on the cusp of a major change in computers. We may be at the peak of the PC's dominance right now, before a decline."

However, the contest is only just beginning. The personal computer market this year has been soft, with sales growth slumping to about 17 per cent, from more than 25 per cent last year. The Christmas sales period, traditionally the strongest time for retail computer sales, may be crucial to the way that the industry develops next. If sales do not pick up, Mr Ellison and his troops will claim that the PC has fallen out of favour and that the public is ready for something new.

His claim that more network computers than PCs will be sold by the year 2000 sounds somewhat far-fetched now, but things tend to change with bewildering speed in the computer world. Before buying the latest, super-fast PC, it may be worth waiting a little to see how the war develops.

Aiming to end Fawly image of tourism

Surly, arrogant, and thrashing cars with a tree branch, Basil Fawly is still the image that defines the hotel trade in Britain and the UK tourism industry generally — poor service, high prices, low quality, and a low-paid, low-class area of life and work.

Ministers and tourism leaders joined together in a fresh initiative yesterday aimed at dispelling the Fawly image.

Virginia Bottomley, Heritage Secretary, Sir Terence Conran, the restaurateur, and tourism industry chiefs spelt out their vision for the future — one a world away from Fawly Towers.

Mrs Bottomley said tourism and hospitality were great wealth creators that would help to generate about a million new jobs in the next ten years.

For some, the idea of a Britain whose employment base is not ICI or GEC, or Sony or Nissan, but instead McDonald's or even Marks & Spencer is a near-nightmare vision. But ministers and tourism leaders were keen yesterday to emphasise that such service sector jobs are not all low skilled. They can and do offer rewards, satisfaction and careers.

Even companies attacked as high turnover and low value-added concerns see training as important. "Training is the key to future profitability and development," said Mike Matthews, a senior executive at

McDonald's. In a study published by her department yesterday Mrs Bottomley suggested ways of improving standards.

In tandem with the success of Britpop and the UK fashion industry, London's restaurants are a key reason behind the city's "hip" reputation — as acclaimed this week by *Newsweek*.

Sir Terence, whose chain of fashionable restaurants, including Quaglin's and Bibendum, have been a significant contributor to London's gastronomic renaissance, struck a cautionary note yesterday. "We can't get chefs for love nor money. We have to send chefs now to Australia to be trained."

But the problem is that many employers in the industry don't see the need for training, viewing it as an unnecessary cost. The study accepts that most employers in hospitality and tourism don't train: 63 per cent of full-time workers and 77 per cent of part-timers receive no training at all. And not only is the industry in Britain bad, it is bad in comparison with other countries.

Officials, ministers and industry leaders recognise there is a long way to go yet. But as Mrs Bottomley said: "This is a start. We can build this up, but only if we invest in our people and get training and quality really in place."

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF HYDRAULIC

CONSTRUCTION OF THE HYDRAULIC COMPLEX OF DCHAR EL OUED AIT MESSAOUD ON OUM ER RBIA RIVER

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION FOR PRESELECTION OF TENDERERS

The Moroccan Ministry of Public Works, General Directorate of Hydraulic calls for an international competition for preselection of tenderers for the construction of the Hydraulic Complex of Dchar El Oued Ait Messaoud on Oum Er Rbia River, which consists of a storage concrete facing rockfill dam located on Dchar El Oued site and a compensation concrete dam located on Ait Messaoud site.

The sites of Dchar El Oued and Ait Messaoud are located respectively at about 50 and 6km of Kasba Tadla town in the province of Beja Mellal in the way to Khenifra city.

The international invitation consists of realising the civil engineering works of Dchar El Oued Dam and Ait Messaoud Dam respectively 101m and 34m high above bases of excavation. The works consists mainly of:

- 1.500 000 m³ of excavations;
- 2.300 000 m³ of filling;
- 167 000 m³ of conventional concrete;
- 60 000 m³ of rolled compacted concrete;
- 56 000 m of boreholes drilling

This competition applies to civil construction companies.

The companies will be in charge of the entire work with the ability to subcontract some of the specialised works such as boreholes drilling, grouting etc., to approved companies. The subcontractors will be binded by the methods prescribed in the Administration specifications document.

Companies are invited to get the preselection documents setting the participation conditions from "Service des marches" of the General Directorate of Hydraulic.

Requests for proposal documents are available on payment of two thousands five hundreds Dirhams (2.500,00 DH) to the qualified departments of Kingdom Treasury.

The companies will have to submit their responses along with a subscription request no later than November 22nd 1996 before 11.00 AM at the following address:

DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'HYDRAULIQUE
RUE HASSAN BEN CHEIKHOUN - AGDAL
RABAT - MOROCCO



Larry Ellison, Oracle's founder, says he is out to get Bill Gates



Scott McNeally has announced Sun's version of the NC

VAT credit helps Betterware to interim £6.7m

By KEITH RODGERS

BETTERWARE, the door-to-door catalogue operator which has been fighting its way back after its shares took a hammering three years ago, has continued its recovery with a healthy interim profit rise.

Pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to September 14 increased 63 per cent to £6.7 million after a value-added tax credit of £1.2 million. Before the exceptional credit, earnings per share increased 31 per cent from 2.6p to 3.4p.

The results, which were marginally above expectations, were greeted favourably in the City, although memories of recent events mean that there is still some nervousness about the stock. The shares, which peaked at 278p in 1993, before a sentiment turned sharply against the company, rose marginally from 118p to 121.5p on the results.

Turnover in continuing

businesses climbed 16 per cent to £32.1 million. The company, where Peter Hartley is managing director, said the momentum in UK sales had continued with a 15 per cent jump to £28.3 million, while margins increased as a result of tighter cost controls.

Overseas sales, which Betterware plans to build up to half of its total turnover within five years, increased 29 per cent, with average customer spend remaining higher than the UK. The company has two joint ventures with Avon Products in Mexico and Argentina, and is planning to enter a third market next year.

Its Australian direct selling business, which began trading in March, had an "encouraging" start, while the company intends to continue its European expansion from France. Andrew Cohen, chairman, whose family owns

about 50 per cent of the company, said the company was excited about direct sales prospects in the Far East, but was not yet ready to move in.

The company, which paid a special dividend at the year-end, increased the interim dividend, payable on January 3, 18 per cent to 1p. With net cash of about £10 million at the end of the first half, Mr Cohen stressed that the company did not plan any acquisitions, but said further special payments to shareholders would not be ruled out.

Mr Cohen confirmed that the company was approached six months ago by an independent electricity producer about the possibility of selling electricity door-to-door when the domestic power market is opened up, but talks had not yet progressed.

Tempus, page 28



Peter Hartley with some of the Betterware products

Threat to 200 jobs at Evans Halshaw

By FRASER NELSON

MORE than 200 jobs are expected to be lost at Evans Halshaw, the automotive dealer, which plans to close one fifth of its dealerships in a bid to increase profitability and move towards larger marketing areas.

The company said yesterday that it would either sell or close 19 of its 88 dealerships, most of which are loss-making. Some 220 jobs are expected to be lost. Evans Halshaw is also looking to save £3 million per year from management and operational cutbacks. Alan Smith, chief executive, said he would be looking at making further job cuts in its central administration.

Restructuring costs are expected to exceed £11 million. While Evans expects to raise £18 million from selling around 12 of the 19 struggling dealerships, the company is on course to incur a total operating loss of £1.3 million by the year end. The disposals, which Evans hopes to complete before the end of the year, will also give rise to goodwill provisions of £8.8 million.

The company said there had been no respite from the recent difficult trading conditions, adding that the slowdown in growth that hit the company in August had continued through to September.

Mr Smith said "that the impact on margins would hit its year-end results, but said the final dividend would be unchanged at 11p, leaving a year total of 16.5p. Its shares lost 5.5p yesterday, closing at 248.5p. The shares traded at 375p earlier this year.

Profits have plunged for the group, based in Solihull, West Midlands, since the recent downturn in the retail car sector, and a number of dealerships acquired in the early 1990s have not shown the returns expected.

Part of the problem was that motor manufacturers have changed their attitude towards car sales, focusing more on marketing through an area network than by concentrating on an individual dealership. The company will operate from 69 sites once the restructuring is completed.

Tempus, page 28

Wellman shares fall after profit warning

SHARES of Wellman fell 15.5p to 33.5p yesterday after the specialist engineering company warned investors that full-year profits would fall short of market expectations after a difficult first half. The company's garage equipment business in the UK and Germany suffered losses, partly as a result of the suspension of vehicle emissions testing by the Department of Transport in the UK and by unsatisfactory margins in both countries.

Falling demand has required restructuring of the UK data recording business to restore profitability, and changes in the distribution channels of computer peripherals in France have led to a decision to withdraw from that market. Group profits before tax were now likely to be little changed from the previous year, Wellman said, adding that measures including changes in operational management and actions to improve margins have been put into place to correct these problems.

Top changes at Asda

ASDA, the supermarket chain, yesterday announced changes in its top management including the appointment of Ian Gibson, chief executive of Nissan UK and a non-executive director at Asda for three years, as non-executive deputy chairman. He will be one of two non-executive deputy chairmen, together with Frank Knight who was appointed in June 1993, and he will be directly below Archie Norman, chief executive, who moves to executive chairman's position in December. Allan Leighton is now chief executive.

GE venture for Wales

AMERICA'S General Electric and Nordam Group, a US aviation company, are joining forces in a new aerospace engineering venture that is to establish its European headquarters in Blackwood, South Wales, creating 170 jobs. A 100,000 sq ft plant will be constructed immediately. The £6 million facility will be run by Nordam Europe, a new company, and is due to become operational next May. Earlier this year General Electric spent £27 million in South Wales on developing a test cell for overhauling the new GE90 aircraft engine.

African link for Coutts

COUTTS, the 300-year-old private banking arm of NatWest, has linked up with South Africa's Board of Executors Private Bank. The alliance, which will not involve the creation of a new company or cross-holdings, allows private clients with interests in both countries access to each other's services as well as increasing their respective share of the lucrative private banking and investment market. David Went, group chief executive of Coutts, said: "Our clients are becoming more international and in response we have been strengthening our global network in a variety of ways."

Scott shareholder plea

DON SCOTT, founder and acting chairman of Scott Pickford, has made a last-ditch appeal to stop five rebel investors from securing complete control of his board. In a letter released yesterday, he urged shareholders of the oil exploration consultancy not to support a motion to dismiss Andrew Shrager, Peter Rothera and David Little from the board. He said that the proposal "defies any kind of commercial logic" and was "designed only to secure numerical supremacy for the rebels. The rival faction ousted Ian Maxwell Scott as chairman last month and now claims control of 52 per cent of the shares."

Sema telecoms drive

SEMA, the Anglo-French computer services group, continued its drive into the telecoms market yesterday after buying three phone billing companies from France Telecom for a total of £3 million. It will buy FTILIS, which runs billing for mobile phones and TELIS, its land-line-based equivalent. It is also buying out France Telecom from Sema Group Telecom — a joint venture the two embarked on in 1992. Sema said the deals underlined its business relationship with the French phone company, which will continue to use Sema for the bulk of its outsourced computer-based work.

Prospect to raise £7m

PROSPECT INDUSTRIES, the specialist engineering and services group undergoing a drastic capital restructuring, is raising £7.36 million through a placing and offer of new shares to finance expansion. The new shares are priced at 35p, a discount of 12.5 per cent to yesterday's closing of 40p. Half are being offered to shareholders on a three-for-eight basis and the rest to institutional investors. The group had a pre-tax loss of £21.3 million in its 1994-95 financial year and expects the pre-tax loss for the year ended September 30 to be no more than £1.5 million.

T&B acquires US assets

TIBBETT & BRITTEN Group, the warehousing and distribution company, is to acquire the distribution assets of Safeway Inc in California, believed to be the largest grocery warehouse in North America. The facility, in Tracy, supplies grocery goods and other merchandise to more than 250 Safeway stores in Northern California, Nevada and Hawaii. The deal includes 250 trucks and 620 trailers, a 1.8 million-sq ft facility and 1,400 employees. The company said that it would involve minimal financial consideration.

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Euro bill 'could be £21bn'

A SINGLE European currency would cost the commercial sector more than £21 billion if it had to comply with compulsory legislative measures, according to European retailers (Leyla Linton writes).

However, voluntary measures would cut the cost to £13 billion, a report by EuroCommerce, the retail, wholesale and international trade representation, said.

EuroCommerce opposes mandatory double-pricing, which it estimates would cost £3.89 billion.

The changeover is currently scheduled for January 1, 2002. Like the BRC, EuroCommerce wants the date for the introduction of the euro put back to mid-February, as January is the busiest time of year for most retailers.

EuroCommerce is in favour of the single currency but believes national and European authorities should regulate only the "essentials".

Tempus, page 28

Havelock shares dive on bad news

By KEITH RODGERS

SHARES of Havelock Europa, the shop and bank store, plummeted as interim pre-tax profits slipped and the company gave warning about second-half prospects.

The shares fell 84.5p to 283p after the company said that pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 fell marginally from £2.05 million to £2.01 million. Earnings per share fell 3.8 per cent to 5.1p, while turnover increased 9.8 per cent to £25 million.

The company, whose chief executive is Hew Balfour, gave warning that delays in several major retail orders had resulted in bunching of turnover into the last five months of the year, and difficulty in satisfying demand meant it had to subcontract work, which would affect margins. The cost, combined with extra development work for new customers, will



Balfour: troubled by delays

total around £900,000 in the current year.

First-half turnover in the non-food retail sector rose to £15.9 million (£12.6 million). Sales in the banking sector dropped marginally to £8.2 million as merger and acquisition activity delayed refurbishment programmes. The dividend, payable December 27, rose to 1.45p per share (1.2p).

7.30am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid

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7.55pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow


IBERIA


ACCOUNTANCY

Auditors must do better

David Chitty says audits should not be a mechanical exercise

Auditors have now been subject to the Joint Monitoring Unit (JMU) for several years. The process is confidential and the details of visits are not revealed publicly.

The JMU does not publish reports on its findings, but periodically articles are prepared, or statements issued, on them. The JMU's comments reveal that the same issues arise in firms of all sizes, on visit after visit. The overall conclusion: auditors can do better.

Audits are a form of consultancy product and, like any project, effective planning is needed. It is therefore surprising that issues repeatedly arise in connection with poor planning and risk assessment. Planning and risk assessment are often undertaken in a very mechanical manner and the approach to the audit assignment does not change from year to year.

This results in failure to appraise the specific needs of the client, to respond to changes and developments in the client's business, or to develop the most cost effective, efficient audit approach that adds value to this business.

A greater investment by auditors in planning and risk assessment will give better feedback to clients and will do

much to raise confidence in the value and purpose of the statutory audit.

Auditors are required by auditing standards to use analytical review procedures to understand the financial information produced by clients.

The aim is to identify the trends and relationships when compared with information from earlier financial periods and relevant non-financial data. Often, though, the exercise is poorly performed by inexperienced staff who are given little time to make comparisons.

The end result is a list of percentage variations, supported by vague comments. Analytical procedures should, however, be used to generate questions regarding the client's business and economic environment, which should be followed up as part of the full audit process.

An overriding concern is that auditors are poor at documenting the results of the procedures. Audit files usually contain much financial information and analysis of the client's financial statements. However, the standard of comment is often poor, giving the view that little thought has been given to the real meaning of the data collected.

Further, in collecting and assessing audit evidence, audi-



David Chitty wants audits to add value to clients

tors are required to perform procedures to ensure that various assertions about the data can be met — that it is complete, accurate, exists, is correctly valued, and is properly disclosed. There is concern that many auditors do not fully understand these assertions.

The final product of the audit process, and the only part of it which is visible to wider public scrutiny, is the audit report contained in the financial statements published

by the client. Auditors are required by Auditing Standards to perform a final review of the financial statements to ensure, among other matters, that all accounts disclosures are correct.

On occasions, thought is not given to the effect of recent changes in statutory disclosures, or accounting standards. Therefore, the financial statements will completely miss a reporting development because the auditors failed to inform the

client about it. Deficiencies can also arise with the audit report itself.

This article may present a tone of concern and criticism, but it is reporting the issues that have arisen from real monitoring visits performed by professional inspectors. The accounting profession is committed to raising its standards and to giving the best service to its clients. If not, its privilege of independent regulation will be taken away.

Better auditing will result from applying more thought to the process and from treating each assignment as a commercial project, which must add value to the client, rather than a mechanical exercise that must be performed in the face of a demanding book of standards.

No professional will admit that he is giving poor service to his clients. However, many members of the auditing profession are falling short in the service delivered and are unnecessarily exposing themselves to a risk of actions against them for professional negligence.

Auditors can and must do better. If they cannot or will not, eventually external regulators will come and do it for them.

David Chitty is Director of Technical Development at Chantrey Vellaconi and author of *Preparing Audit Reports* published at £40.00 by Accountancy Books, PO Box 620, Milton Keynes, MK9 2JX. Telephone: 01908 248000.

Wake up at the back, reporting is going global

Jim Leisenring, referring to the debate on the future direction of accounting that Coopers & Lybrand staged in the ballroom of the Grosvenor House Hotel in London last week, said afterwards: "I was surprised that there was no feeling of urgency."

Leisenring is vice-chairman of the United States Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The issues that are being debated are urgent. The future direction of world financial reporting is up for grabs. Yet much of what was said at the debate was muddled and confused, and, in some cases, it did not relate at all to what was happening.

Financial reporting is at the heart of the economic process. It is about how the constituent parts of economic activity are performing. And, equally important, it is about the perceptions of how they are performing. The impressions formed and the understanding of analysts, shareholders, investors and the general public are crucial to the performance of the country's economy. That is why it is always surprising to

formulating rules that would stop people bending them so far that accounts were meaningless.

It does rather beggar belief. Here were the cream of the United Kingdom's financial reporting community. And what were they advocating? That accounts were, by and large, for the directors' own use and that it was unfair to stop directors showing the figures in whatever form best suited them.

It was no wonder that the main issue completely eluded many of the people at the debate. This was the issue that Leisenring had expected to find providing the urgency among the assembled standard setters and finance directors. Put concisely, it is that financial reporting rules are rapidly becoming global and that people in this country need to decide pretty sharply what they want to do about it. There are three alternative routes currently. There are the US rules, known as USGAAP. There are the UK rules, known as UKGAAP. And there are the rules that the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) is putting together in great haste to meet a deadline of March 1998, after which their rules may be approved as a route on to, for example, the New York Stock Exchange.



ROBERT BRUCE

That is what it is all about. Companies in all the advanced economies need common global financial reporting rules that are accepted by the world's leading stock exchanges. Except, it would appear, the UK. Here, finance directors seem happy to muddle along and presume that figures produced under UK rules and fudged about in the restating of them for US rules will somehow prove adequate.

Roger Davis even issued an impassioned plea. "If finance directors don't take an interest over the next three to six months," he said, "then the world will have passed you by." No one seemed to be taking much notice.

There was, said Leisenring, "a feeling of 'so what?'. And that is not a view you would hear anywhere else around the world."

There are several possible political strategies for sorting out the mechanism for producing global financial reporting rules. However, unless the finance director community in this country shows an interest in the need for agreed rules, there is little point in taking part in the politics. It is all a bit like the UK's attitude towards Europe. No one cares enough to take part until it is too late and the consequences of that lack of interest have come home to roost.



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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

What's in a name?

THE City firm of Kingston Smith moved offices this week. Gone are the cramped quarters by Liverpool Street Station. It has bought the freehold of the old site in Goswell Road to the west of the City that was once the executive headquarters of the English ICA. And it has done up the old place in fine style. In the basement, where the institute used to store its membership records, there is now a suite of meeting rooms. And it was thought a good idea to name these after the early City livery companies. One room is called "Coopers".

Guests at the opening this week spent a lot of time looking for its twin, which would have to be called "Lybrand".

Fighting talk

AT THE very grand debate that Coopers & Lybrand staged at the Grosvenor House Hotel last week the fighting talk tended to come from Jim Leisenring, vice-chairman of FASB, the US standard-setting organisation. In particular, he defended the statement of principles that came under so much verbal attack when the UK accounting standards board published it earlier this year. Its critics, he said, were "intellectually vacuous or downright silly". So much for the firm of Ernst & Young then.

Half measures

EXPECT fireworks at this afternoon's extraordinary general meeting of the certified accountants. The rebellious Prit Sikkka called the meeting and issued ten resolutions for debate. These then had to be sent out to members by Andrea Rose, the chief executive. Resolution No 10 calls for her salary to be halved.

ROBERT BRUCE

THE TIMES

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VISUAL ART 1
A Prime Minister's legacy: the treasures of Robert Walpole's Houghton Hall go on display



VISUAL ART 2
Can Robert Hughes rekindle the egghead tradition on TV with his new art series?

THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE
Siobhan Davies brings her company, and an atmospheric double bill, to the South Bank



TOMORROW
The Spice Girls' first album, and all the other new pop CDs, reviewed by David Sinclair

Top of the premier's league

VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle on an exhibition of sumptuous treasures amassed by the first Prime Minister

The one lacuna in the Tate Gallery's magnificent Grand Tour exhibition is any survey, however brief, of Old Master paintings bought in Italy for British collections in the 18th century. These are the paintings that make up so much of our national heritage today. They are as much Grand Tour "taste" as antiquities or Classical architecture but, for the Tate, both time to prepare the exhibition and space in which to hold it was limited. It has fallen instead to the Castle Museum in Norwich to provide a flavour of what was happening here, as opposed to in Italy.

Houghton Hall in Norfolk is without doubt one of the most beautiful Classically-inspired country houses in Britain. It was built by Sir Robert Walpole, the first Prime Minister, between 1721 and 1735 to house his art collection. Its interiors and furnishings, designed for the most part by William Kent, make it a great ensemble showpiece of Grand Tour taste. It is surprising, then, to discover that Walpole never went to Italy, but instead employed architects who had, and relied on his three sons (Grand Tourists all) and agents on the spot to buy paintings and sculptures for him.

Unfortunately Walpole had a firm grip on the nation's finances then on his own, and at his death in 1745 the estate was already in debt. His lavish lifestyle, which included pouring vast sums of money into Houghton, made it almost inevitable (as his son Horace foresaw) that some of the contents would eventually have to be sold. The Houghton collection of Old Master paintings was second only to that of the King. Although recently acquired, it was already recognised as part of the nation's heritage in 1777, when John Wilkes suggested to the House of Commons that the collection be bought for the British Museum. Neither George III nor Parliament were prepared to find the money, however, and in 1779 the Empress Catherine the Great of Russia bought 181 paintings from

Walpole's grandson for about £40,000. She hung them in her new picture gallery, the Hermitage. The loss was considered a national disaster — and there begins a tale that continues to this day.

The recently completed restoration of Houghton to its original appearance and the possibilities opened up by glancing in Russia of borrowing back some of the lost paintings have inspired the Norwich exhibition. Despite the unsympathetic exhibition space, the curators have pulled off a conjuring trick which evokes the different parts of the house as they were in the 18th century. Loans by the Marquess of Cholmondeley from Houghton are generous. They include the Rysbrack bust of Walpole wrapped in a Roman toga, which normally stands on the mantelpiece of the Stone Hall (in front of a relief carving by William Kent of a sacrifice to the goddess Diana). The drawing for that relief is here, as is

Walpole's collection of paintings was second only to the King's

one of the mahogany benches from the hall and two bronze, reduced-scale copies of the famous antique Borghese and Medici vases.

There is some exquisite silverware (including the 1728 Walpole Salver by Paul de Lamerie), an armchair, settee and stool upholstered in crimson wool and silk from the famous set designed by Kent for the Houghton Salon; family portraits with, unusually, one of Walpole's gardener John Ellys; and some really splendid paintings. Best among them is the magnificent late work by Poussin of *The Holy Family with Saints John and Elizabeth*, based on the same subject by Raphael, of a size and monumentality unusual for that artist — the courier who accompanied it from St. Petersburg had problems getting it into the aircraft.

Also from the Hermitage are a portrait of Pope Clement IX by Carlo Maratti and one of an unknown man by Salvator Rosa. Once owned by Catherine the Great, but sold to Andrew Mellon in the 1920s to raise cash (and then given to the Washington National Gallery of Art), are a



Restored to glory: the saloon at Houghton Hall, Norfolk, adorned with paintings from the Walpole collection

small head of Pope Innocent X by Velázquez, a portrait of a man by Frans Hals and one of Philip, Lord Wharton by Van Dyck. Walpole had bought the large Wharton collection of portraits by Van Dyck in its entirety.

Some of these paintings hung in Houghton Hall, others in a specially-built top-lit gallery close by. Knowing that the collection would not survive

intact, in 1747 Horace Walpole published a detailed guide called the *Aedes Walpolianae*. It included masterpieces such as Rubens's portrait of Helene Fourment and Rembrandt's *Sacrifice of Isaac*. He also commissioned engravings of all the paintings. It is not known how many of Walpole's paintings are still in the Hermitage — some were undoubtedly destroyed in the Second World

War — but what a glorious exhibition that would make.

● Houghton Hall: The Prime Minister, The Empress and The Hermitage is at the Castle Museum, Norwich, until January 5. It then transfers to Kenwood House, Hampstead, London, from January 23 to April 20. Principal sponsorship is by Christie's. The accompanying book, edited by Andrew Moore, is published by Philip Wilson at £35.

Big opinions in a small box

Lynne Truss looks forward to the bracing return of Robert Hughes as television's 'curator of the arts'

I may all have started with Charles Van Doren. And if not, he is accustomed to carrying the can. Star of the famous quiz show scandal of the 1950s, Van Doren was a nice-looking and highly educated young literature professor who betrayed America by cheating on the television quiz *Twenty-One*. Discredited, he was blamed for many things, but among them was this: he had thrown away the chance to inspire Americans in the arts. Under his influence, bobby-soxers would have brushed up their Shakespeare and worn specs for choice. But he let them down, with sadly observable results.

Watching that great communicator Robert Hughes kick off his new American art series *American Visions* (starting on Sunday, 7.20pm, BBC2), the Van Doren problem is bound to hit you. Why have so few inspirational figures pierced the levelling membrane of British television, and fired us to critical appreciation of arts and books? Hughes looks behind him and finds almost no precedents: instead of a three-ring circus, there is only the short, blunt, human pyramid formed by Kenneth Clark and Melvyn Bragg. *Civilisation* caught the public imagination in the dim and distant. In the 1970s, on *Read All About It*, Bragg established himself as a sort of MC for the arts. But in the intervening years, it has been tough for eggheads. Even Hughes's own *Shock of the New* was yonks ago.

The trouble is that, in the decades after Clark, the magisterial tone fell into disrepute. Under the influence of fervid Postmodernism, television dispensed with front men; even commentaries were scrapped. Intelligent viewers were expected to make their own sense of the images flowing before them — a technique that served well enough for 40 Minutes but was dead boring for the arts. At its nadir in the

late 1980s, Channel 4 produced the infamous series *State of the Art* — a pretentious, bewildering and wordless montage of ultra-modern art, which not only dispensed with old-fashioned value judgments, but did not even identify what you were looking at.

So new arts series are rebuilding in the ruins, and when Andrew Graham-Dixon's recent *History of British Art* started making grand personal evaluations ("I think of Stowe as the greatest collaborative work of art produced in Britain in the 18th century"), I felt guilty enjoying it so much. Was Andrew Graham-Dixon allowed to say things like that? Was he setting himself up as Lord Clark, or something? Yet paradoxically the more a presenter tells you what to think, the more you trust and respect him. Graham-Dixon showed us the previously unfiled remains of a "Jesse tree" in Wales. "As far as I'm concerned," he said thrillingly, "it's one of the greatest sculptures of the world."

Is television ready for the return of Hughes? A recent profile of him called his demeanour of certainty "Johnsonian", which is about right. In the first instalment of *American Visions* he delivers a paean to Thomas Jefferson, which begins: "If I had to pick one person from all the dead Americans I wish I could talk to" — and he clearly has not the slightest doubt he could hold his own. Hughes's Aussie diphthongs still amaze and entertain; he is large with praise and magnificent with sarcasm. To accuse Jeff Koons of hype "would be like rebuking a fish for being wet".

In the last episode, Hughes laments for American art that it has lost its defining habits of "plain empirical speech and spiritual hope". But if American art is somehow losing those qualities, at least British arts documentaries are finally getting them back.



Robert Hughes: "Johnsonian"

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THE TIMES



David Hughes and Amanda Britton in Siobhan Davies' innovative double bill for Dance Umbrella

Happier taking the wider view

SIOBHAN DAVIES is often referred to as Britain's queen of contemporary dance. And with good reason. No other female choreographer has worked so successfully over the years at producing innovative and intelligent dance of the highest quality. No wonder the Siobhan Davies Dance Company has just won this year's lucrative Prudential Award for Dance.

The double bill her company brought to London this week, part of the Dance Umbrella festival, is evidence of her immaculate taste. Working with a first-rate team — composer Gerald Barry, lighting designer Peter Mumford and set designer David Buckland — Davies has created two companion pieces for seven dancers that are rich in ambience and ruminative tranquillity.

The first half, *Trespass*, is set to two Barry piano quartets. The title is a signpost: dancers "trespass" into each other's space, the dance itself trespasses into the music and lighting. Even the

DANCE
Siobhan Davies
Queen Elizabeth Hall

shape of the choreography is an encroachment on form: angularity and softness compete for priority; a flurry of crisp upright phrasing is counter-balanced by slow, emphatic arcs that feel the pull of gravity. Davies also intimates a parallel universe of dance, so that what is happening on stage seems to be occurring in two different places at the same time, co-existing but not always co-operating. Sometimes the sensation is explicit, sometimes implied, but the dancers are absorbed and the effect is absorbing.

Affections is set to six Handel arias (sung feistily by the mezzo Budding Verona James), which Barry has scored

for the same instrumental ensemble (piano, cello, violin and viola) he used in *Trespass*. *Affections* shares key elements of design and lighting with *Trespass*, too, and the choreography of the earlier work is echoed in the new movements. But everything has been rearranged to colour a different mood.

The lens of the choreography has narrowed, its focal point trained on individual dancers, exploring their personal histories rather than their relationships to one another. Hence *Affections* is more emotional and inextricably linked to the personality of its interpreters. Yet in a curious way, since these are some of the most expressive soloists around, the choreography is diminished by the weakened group dynamic. It is as if Davies herself, maker of inordinately beautiful dance landscapes, is uncomfortably speaking in close-ups.

DEBRA CRAINE

Novel view of naturalism

THE lobby of this theatre always looks much the same but once up the last few steps into the auditorium and there is never any telling what you will find there. The seats could be facing the long side, the short side, divided down the middle, or rearranged to fit into ferry boats. They may be removed entirely and replaced with soil on which actors and audience intermingle, or positioned around a central trench crossed by planks.

This last idea has now been developed: to a degree I wouldn't have thought conceivable after all, the place was originally two rooms above a pub, and there is only so much excavation a floor will take. The play is the early, naturalist piece by Gerhart Hauptmann, the work that probably earned him the Nobel Prize in 1912, and its subject the doomed revolt by Silesian cotton weavers in 1844

THEATRE
The Weavers
Gate

against impossibly low wages and frightful living conditions. Dominic Cooke places his production in an oblong pit where the audience sits around the upper edges, staring down at actors ten feet below, like visitors to a zoo observing curious beasts. I don't think this is the image Cooke intends to foster, though inevitably we feel more distanced from emotional involvement than, for example, in his last production here, *Hunting Scenes From Lower Bavaria*.

The play is interesting, chiefly for the way Hauptmann boldly moves the focus around his cast of 26, but truly

it is the staging that holds the attention. The first half contains three scenes, in factory, hotel and inn, and the shifting is done in the familiar way by the cast. But the second half requires a scene change from the factory-owner's sitting-room to a working loom, and Robert Innes Hopkins's design solution is to build the first on top of the second. When the owner's house is looted, the mob lifts chairs, silver, china and whisks them in slow motion while the floorboards are separated and the loom revealed beneath.

Using a muscular translation by Anthony Vivis, Cooke's use of overlapping talk is remarkably effective. Some performances stand out because the parts are longer, but essentially this is an ensemble production, played with clarity and conviction.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Hats off to a viol body

RECITAL
Fretwork
Wigmore Hall

now languid, now darting, hovers over and around the viol like the long-legged fly of the Yeats poem on which the work is based. Miles-Johnson and Fretwork gave a strong performance, with the composer conducting.

Tan Dun's *A Sinking Love* is an atmospheric miniature which was commissioned by Fretwork for the Purcell tercentenary last year. Dun takes the opening notes of a Purcell fantasia but refashions them

to create a musical language owing more to Eastern pentatonicism, and combines this with the words of a poem by the 8th-century Chinese poet Li Po to recreate something of the world of Chinese opera. Emma Kirkby swooped and whispered with delectable precision.

Clavin Bryars, in his *In Nomine* a Six, exploited Fretwork's strength as a family of instruments with an homogenised overall sonority. In this, his piece comes much closer to an "authentic" response to the viol, and to the Purcellian idiom in the broadest sense. New sonorities are explored, but with refreshing understatement.

These were well represented in the programme, too, with fantasias by Byrd, Jenkins and Lawes. Fretwork deserves much credit as a patron of contemporary music, but still more so for bringing the highest level of performance to the viol consort.

TESS KNIGHTON



FILM 1
Robert De Niro switches to psycho mode again for *The Fan*, a violent baseball story



FILM 2
... while *The Glimmer Man* offers a mindless farago of serial killers and secret agents

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
The pit's closed, but the band plays on in *Brassed Off*, a British comedy with character



FILM 4
Anna Campion does not begin to match sister Jane's directorial talent with her debut, *Loaded*

CINEMA: What becomes a Hollywood legend most? Not his showing in the baseball thriller, *The Fan*, says Geoff Brown

Batty De Niro fouls out again

When the first films were exhibited, audiences were awed and entranced by cinema's basic ingredient, pictures that move. A train puffing into a station platform; a boy playing a trick with a garden hose; a baby at the breakfast table: the Lumière cinematograph took replicas of these simple scenes and gave them the kiss of life. Now, a hundred years later, cinema offers so many audiences not life, but death, or at the very least, extreme violence. The earliest camera cherished what it filmed: today's camera lens spends much of its time watching the human form blasted by shotguns, slit by knives, engulfed in flames, or seared by a passing rail. This is offered up as entertainment.

Since *The Fan* is directed by Tony Scott, maker of *Top Gun* and *True Romance*, the violence is served up with some razzle-dazzle. We peer at scenes through a curtain of driving rain, or wire mesh, or clouds from a steam bath, or a car windscreen's opaque blur. We also get a major star, Robert De Niro, grimacing under a baseball cap as Gil Renard, a psychotic fan who takes extreme action to help the fortunes of Wesley Snipes, the San Francisco Giants' expensive new celebrity.

But neither of these ingredients make *The Fan* any easier to watch and enjoy. Unlike his contemporary Al Pacino, De Niro is an actor in a rut, shrinking rather than growing with age. We have seen that mad glint and chilling grin too often before we saw it in *Taxi Driver*, in *King of Comedy* and in *Cape Fear*. But this time De Niro has no Scorsese to help him explore the jungle of a psychopath's mind. Scott's speciality is brute force, not finesse; and the script scarcely helps by painting De Niro's character in such obvious colours. A failed salesman of hunting knives who abuses his clients and uses his merchandise to impale cockroaches; a failed husband and father; a perfectionist who believes that "baseball's better than life" — it's fair: how could he not go over the edge when Snipes, his idol, suffers a rotten season?

The visual sheen proves no draw, either. The more De Niro goes off the rails, stalking his idol, threatening or making life, the more gratuitous the

The Fan
Odeon Leicester Square
18, 114 mins
Robert De Niro as a psychotic baseball fan

The Glimmer Man
Warner West End
18, 91 mins
Steven Seagal goes bananas

Brassed Off
Empire, 15, 108 mins
British comedy with a bit of spirit

The Last Supper
ICA Cinema, 96 mins
Moving Aids drama

Loaded
Virgin Tricadero
18, 96 mins
Jane Campion's sister makes a mess

body fall prey to martial arts blows. This is little more than video store fodder, briefly let loose into cinemas.

There is one saving grace. You can laugh at its star and co-producer, Steven Seagal, who sits on the screen like a beached whale. Seagal has become such a power in the film business that no one appears in a position to tell him that his acting skills are almost invisible, and that his girly does not suit loudly embroidered Nehru jackets, a string of prayer beads slung round his chest. So there he stands, a garish lump with a flat, whispering voice, trying to convince as a New York detective on loan to LA, pursuing a serial killer case that is not what it seems. In between giving people kicks and chops, he says fighting is against his religion: he's a Buddhist.

The film, indifferently directed by television hand John Gray, contains deliberate



Robert De Niro and Andrew J. Ferchland take part in America's national game — working out how long Bobby can milk his performance in *Taxi Driver*

comedy too, mostly assigned to Keenan Ivory Wayans as Seagal's bumptious partner, chafing at his assignment. But the jokes are very feeble. Nor is much joy to be gleaned from the thriller element: scrambling to unite the serial killer with corrupt government agents and the Russian Mafia. Kevin Brodin's script lurches between the vague, the obvious and the ridiculous. Among the supporting cast, the only interesting name is our own Brian Cox, wasting his talents as a shadowy CIA puppet-master. I hope the pay was good.

If you need a respite from physical violence, you could try *Brassed Off*, a fluently made British film full of pomp and Yorkshire grit. This is the work of the writer-director Mark Herman, a Yorkshireman who sold bacon for the family firm in Hull before finding Hollywood finance for a bland and forgettable first

feature, *Blame It on the Bellboy*, set in Venice.

He has not made the same mistake twice. With *Brassed Off* he writes about what he knows. You can fault his script for its broad dramatic strokes, and the mood's awkward mix of sugar and vinegar. But the depiction of Grimley, a colliery town facing pit closure in 1992, is exact and vivid; and the cross-section of miners and wives stays well this side of caricature. Herman's leads, seasoned character players from film or television, even look convincing dressed in purple uniforms, tooting away on cornets, trombones, euphoniums and the like; or, in Pete Postlethwaite's case, wielding the baton. The esteemed Grimethorpe Colliery Band directed the soundtrack, and some obliging extras.

"I know they have a spot of bother at the pit," Postlethwaite says, "but that's sepa-

rate. That's different. This is music." His band members are not such ostriches. If the pit closes, so does the band, even with the national championships looming.

But the arrival of Tara Fitzgerald, her toothy smile and flugelhorn revitalises the male fraternity, especially her childhood sweetheart (Ewan McGregor, from *Trainspotting*). She also causes the script to jump through some awkward hoops as her secret agenda becomes clear, and the miners vote to accept redundancy.

By the end, Herman's film faces two ways at once. It wants to be a heart-warming comedy of obstacles overcome. It also wants to shoot darts at the Tory government. Both targets cannot be hit at once, although any film that attempts to put bite back into British film comedy deserves encouragement.

The *Last Supper* offers another antidote to the casual violence of *The Fan* and *The Glimmer Man*, although since this is a visually polky film from Canada about the last hours of an AIDS sufferer, few people may be prepared to take it. Cynthia Roberts's recreation of Hillar Linoja's award-winning play never attempts to sweeten the pill. The camera stays in the sickroom, close to the skeletal face of a dancer who wishes to bow out gracefully through euthanasia. Action unfolds in real time: if the character is alone and silent, whizzing apart, the film says silent too. The spectacle is made all the more harrowing by the knowledge that the lead actor, Ken McDougall, died four days after shooting finished: the character's last supper was also his own.

Not that everything is bleak. There is dignity, courage and much compassion here; and

Robert's film performs a genuine service by making us share a loved one's final hours. At the end a few false notes are struck, but they cannot prevent *The Last Supper* being a moving and cleansing experience.

Life gets nastier again in *Loaded*, the feature debut of Anna Campion, Jane Campion's sister, which has lurked unhappily on various shelves since the Venice Film Festival two years ago.

The film, shot in England, has now lost 12 minutes; but no amount of inventive editing could significantly improve Campion's haphazard visuals, or inspire interest in the doleful school-leavers who gather at a country house for drugs, breast-beating and the making of a horror video. Some of the cast, such as Thandie Newton and Catherine McCormack, have now moved on to better things. Audiences should do likewise.

SNAP VERDICT

'A classy thriller'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

THE FAN
James Crabtree, 19: Sadly, great actors do not always make great films. Despite great acting from Robert De Niro and Wesley Snipes, this thriller is more stylised than stylish.

David Balfour, 19: Classy and well-directed thriller with a fantastically tense finale.

Johan Alencberg, 19: A perfect mix of action and drama. Not a conventional psycho-thriller and not particularly scary, but certainly well made.

Susan Wallace, 19: A failed father, a failed baseball player and a failed script.

BRASSED OFF
James: Although the story is engrossing, nothing is quite as amusing as watching the ubiquitous Ewan McGregor attempt a Yorkshire accent. The story is sufficiently diverting to distract from the brass band music, but only just. Entertaining, but nothing special.

David: This is not just a simple tale of pit closures and brass bands. With no single lead, the community becomes the star. Unfortunately, the film needed to be more focused for the sake of coherence.

Johan: Personal triumphs, individual tragedy and industrial depression. Lacking in tension, but some fine performances.

Susan: An intelligently written script which is both atmospheric and sensitive. The interjections of typical Yorkshire humour give a bitter-sweet touch.

THE GLIMMER MAN
James: I liked this film all the way until the credits ended: the opening credits. Awful and recommended to no one.

David: Pathetically made rubbish. Steven Seagal yet again tries and fails to portray an enigmatic action hero. This is a cheap imitation of *NYPD Blue*.

Johan: The once funny Keenan Ivory Wayans is boring and lewd alongside the even dumber Seagal. Terrible.

Susan: Predictable and overly compulsive action; everything either explodes, is shot or falls in slow motion from a top-story apartment. Crucially awful.

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POP: Songs and sneers from the North and a commanding act from Mali Platinum goes well with jaded

A WHIRLWIND period in the seven-year history of the Beautiful South began late in 1994 with the release of *Carry On Up The Charts*, a singles anthology that drummed home just how many times their always accessible, usually sardonic songmanship had touched a national nerve. That collection has now sold more than two million copies in this country alone, and rolled out the red carpet for their new studio material, on which Midos continues as executive producer.

Thus with a Top Five single, *Rotterdam*, already in the bag, its new parent album *Blue is the Colour* opened its account this week by cruising straight to No. 1. As they

continue this current tour, the band have already confirmed plans to top themselves, as it were, with a set of arena dates next April including two at the Albert Hall. Perhaps not the world, but Britain, at least, is their oyster.

Given the group's sarcastic pretext — the very name of the Hull-based act is a sneering reference to the London-centric industry they have conquered — one should approach their live show expecting a high degree of fashionable ennui. For their fans, this is not something to be endured, but an essential aspect of the appeal.

THE extraordinary power and presence of Oumou Sangare have already given her superstar status across Africa, and she is well on the way to similar acclaim in Europe. That she comes from Mali, a country where polygamy is still the norm and women are second-class citizens, makes it all the more extraordinary that she now ranks with Baaba Maal and Youssou N'Dour among the hottest properties in world music.

A ceaseless campaigner against oppression, she dedicated a rare London concert "pour la liberté de la femme" and sang material from her last album *Worotan*. The title means ten cola nuts — the current price of a bride in a West African arranged marriage — which virtually sells women into slavery. The traditional wassoulou sound relies on a thrilling dialogue between Sangare's swooping voice and the kamelengoni, a

The Beautiful South Empire, W12

Vocalists Paul Heaton and Dave Hemingway delayed their entry until after the first number, for which Jacqueline Abbott took the lead on *Don't Marry Her*. This opening song from the new album is a typically two-edged device, its sugary melody disguising a confrontational lyric about social and sexual conventions. An audience that had helped the album into pole position was already word perfect.

Several other new songs decorated the setlist, but the evening was nonetheless a celebration of the astonishing success of the retrospective album. *You Keep It All In*, A

Radical overtones

Oumou Sangare
Bloomsbury Theatre

harp lute that is plucked fiercely, and the mesmeric rhythms of the djembe drum. This is augmented by electric guitar and bass to produce a funky, blues-laden pulse which at the same time remains deeply traditional. It provides the perfect foil to Sangare's voice which conveys centuries of tragedy as she rails against the indignities and injustices heaped

upon West African women. As a performer, Sangare commands attention in striking traditional robes, whether dancing with her two women chorus singers or spinning and catching the calabash, a large basket hung with jangling cowrie shells which is used as a percussive instrument. Sangare fights for freedom yet respects tradition and has the charisma to become a radical icon in the manner of a Bob Marley or a Nina Simone. She is also incredibly professional: due to a strike on Eurostar in Brussels, Sangare and her band arrived in London only 75 minutes before they were due on stage and scarcely had time for a sound check. She still triumphed and the sell-out audience never would have known of the backstage dramas.

NIGEL
WILLIAMSON

Valkyries finally run out of puff

OPERA

Die Walküre
Covent Garden

THE curse of Alberich hung over the performance of *Die Walküre* at Covent Garden last Friday. The new Brünnhilde lost her voice and had to be replaced for the last act, the Wotan was also audibly tiring by the end, while the Sieglinde should never have been allowed on the stage in the first place.

Anne Evans had been scheduled to take over the role of Brünnhilde from Deborah Polaski in the second cycle, earlier in the month. She was known to be apprehensive about it, and the switch was delayed on the grounds of insufficient rehearsal time. On Friday, as soon as she bounded on as the high-spirited adolescent of Richard Jones's conception (she soon grows up), it was clear that something was amiss. The valkyrie cries were not at all bad, but she was plainly ill at ease — when she should have been jokingly gesturing a high note with an upturned finger, she pointed down — and her singing throughout the act rarely matched her reputation as one of the finest Brünnhildes of the day.

After the interval, the Royal Opera's director, Nicholas Payne, came on to explain that Evans had sung herself hoarse and would be replaced by her valkyrie sister, Gerhilde (Penelope Chalmers), with Patricia Cameron stepping in from the chorus as the new Gerhilde. Both substi-

tutes were admirable, Chalmers breezing through the production with convincing acting and some sensitive, if lightweight, singing.

John Tomlinson, who has hurtled himself at the role of Wotan unsparingly night after night, succumbed at last. But the more interiorised reading that emerged as a result in Act III had much to offer. The same cannot be said of the Sieglinde of Ulla Gustafsson, whose poorly supported, below-the-note tone remains an embarrassment.

Bernard Haitink's conducting of Wagner is as unpredictable as ever. He produces lyrical and thrilling sounds when required, but his response is essentially to musical values, not dramatic or verbal ones. The meaning of the drama seems to pass him by, with the result that he gives little support to the singers.

In spite of everything, Jones's scarily honest, disturbing and profoundly moving production made an indelible impression on an enthusiastic audience.

BARRY
MILLINGTON

NEW VIDEOS

Bruce Willis in triplicate
all the *Die Hard* films have been gathered in one collection

NEW CDS

Sir Charles Mackerras
conducts a lively new recording of *Don Giovanni*

THE TIMES
ARTS

CHOICE 1

Riccardo Chailly
conducts the LSO in Schoenberg and Wagner

CHOICE 2

Edouard Lock's
La La La Human
Steps brings 'erotic ballet' to Leeds

Bruce's explosive Christmas box

DIE HARD TRILOGY

FOX 18
FIRST: Bruce Willis's New York detective gets caught on Christmas Eve in a terrorist attack on a high-rise office tower. *Die Hard*, 1988. Two years later, he spends another Christmas battling terrorists at Washington's airport (*Die Hard 2*, 1990). Five years further on, he is back in New York, coping with a terrorist prankster, played in pantomime style by Jeremy Irons (*Die Hard with a Vengeance*, 1995). All three films are now available in a boxed set, a perfect gift for couch potatoes. Number one is the most cohesive; number two has the best action, and the silliest plot.

BROKEN ARROW

FOX GUIDO, 15, 1996
RENEGADE: Air Force pilot John Travolta steals nuclear weapons; his former chum Christian Slater tries to get them back. A bumptious and brainless action movie, bursting with vivid set pieces from director John Woo, but with no worthwhile plot, characterisation or dialogue to serve as ballast. Samantha Mathis is the token girl. Available to rent.

DR Jekyll and Mr Hyde

SPEARHEAD, PG, 1926
JOHN BARRYMORE: At the peak of his theatrical career when he made this film in New York, walks away with the available honour, changing from the shy, studious Jekyll into the rampaging Hyde with only the slightest help from camera trickery. The production around him is somewhat stodgy, apart from some expressionist lighting and the passing atmosphere of London



Blown away: more murder and mayhem in *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, the third part of the *Die Hard* trilogy

squalor. Directed by John S. Robertson, a major figure at the time but largely forgotten now.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

ENTERTAINMENT, 15, 1996
THE LIFE and loves of Robert Redford: saintly television newsroom boss, and his new star reporter, Michelle Pfeiffer. Director Jon Avnet recreates a television studio with lots of nuzzle-dazzle, but the bustle only accom-

panies the paper-thin script, which follows the path of that old Hollywood classic, *A Star is Born*. Individually, Pfeiffer and Redford offer assorted pleasures; together, they strike no sparks, no matter how close up and personal they get. Available to rent.

WUTHERING HEIGHTS

CINEMA CLUB, U, 1939
GOLDWYN'S 1939 production is not to be watched side by side with the

book (only the first 17 chapters are covered), but as a fat slice of Hollywood Gothic romance there is much to enjoy. Laurence Olivier's rugged power, as Heathcliff, compensates for the limpness of Merle Oberon's heroine and Gregg Toland's photographic recreation of the Yorkshire moors is a feast for the eyes. William Wyler directs with his usual care.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Beethoven's evolution; Giovanni with gusto; Hungarian rhapsody

Barry Millington

BEETHOVEN

COE/HARMONCOURT
TELDES 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2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2

Dispatches from the home front

Roy Jenkins is entertained and educated by a collection of political sketches that bring parliamentary history to life

The only ill-chosen item in this book is its title. It is not a *Literary Companion to Parliament*. If it were, I would expect it to depend heavily on those who have written fiction against a parliamentary background.

There was something of this in Dickens and Thackeray and a great deal more in Trollope. By contrast there was practically nothing in Jane Austen. Just as peers were remote deities in her societies where the arrival of a younger son of a baronet was sufficient to create frissons, so MPs were equally outside the horizons of Mansfield Park and Kellynch Hall.

Disraeli's fiction was obviously dripping with parliamentary scenes, but, considerable novelist though he was, he did not come near rivaling Trollope as a chronicler of political life. (It could of course be argued that Disraeli did more than chronicle the dramas of politics; he made them, with a cool insolent courage which left Phineas Finn or Plantagenet Palliser standing.)

However, none of the fiction of these two mid-19th century novelists gets into this book. There are only two glancing references to Trollope. Nor do 20th-century novelists do any better. Waugh is never mentioned. Admittedly he never got nearer to the House of Commons than to look down on it from White's, but his two parliamentary characters (Box-Bender in *Sword of Honour* and Rex Momram in *Brideshead*, in fact essentially the same man, a sort of amalgam of Robert Boothby and Brendan Bracken, with maybe a touch of Randolph Churchill) were richly offensive portraits. And there is nothing either from those who in the last few decades have deliberately set out to write parliamentary fiction: Maurice Edelman, Wilfred Flenburgh, Edwinna Currie and Douglas Hurd in one or two of his books.

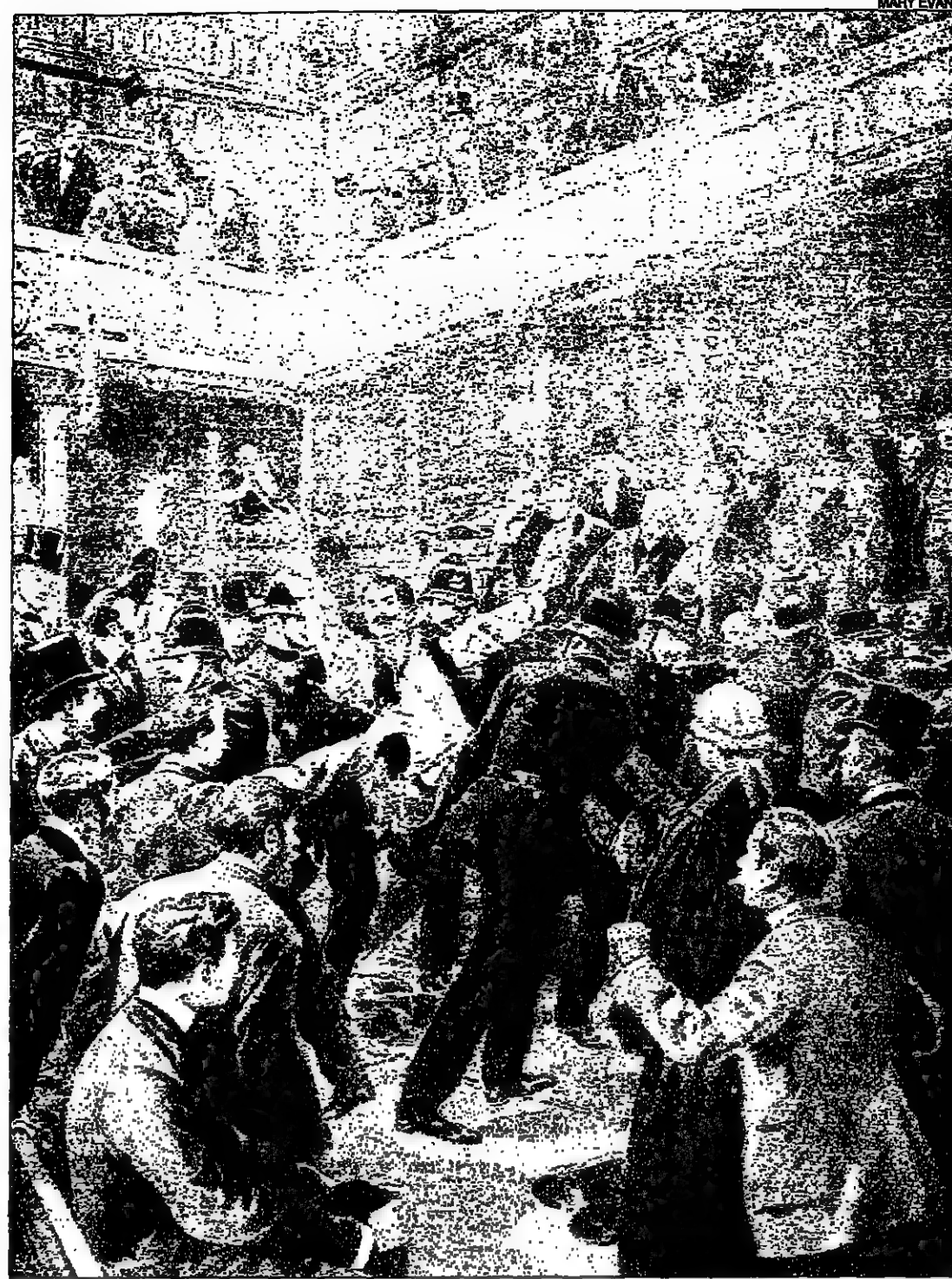
Christopher Silvester has therefore not produced, or even attempted, a conjuncture between literature and Parliament. But he has assembled

THE LITERARY COMPANION TO PARLIAMENT
Edited by Christopher Silvester
Sinclair-Stevenson, £30
ISBN 1 85196 400 4

led with style, scholarship, and discrimination a selection of thoughts about Parliament and descriptions of famous events within its walls, mostly by MPs themselves or by those who were the regular and professional commentators on its proceedings. He chooses his excerpts with skill and erudition, and allows them to run long enough to be proper descriptive pieces and not just quotable snippets. He also shines lights from different angles onto events of sufficient interest to justify multiple treatment.

The result is often seriously informative. For instance, there were two notorious scenes of major disorder in what might be called the high classical parliamentary period. The first was in 1893 towards the end of the Committee Stage of Gladstone's second Home Rule Bill when a highly provocative remark of Joseph Chamberlain led to a return cry of "Judas" from T. P. O'Connor, and within a minute or so to a mass of about 40 fighting and writhing members in the wall of the House in front of the table. Gladstone referred to it as "last night's catastrophe".

The second was in July, 1911, when Asquith endeavoured to set out to the House his reasons for having secured the assent of the King for the creation of up to 500 new peers to assure the passage of the Parliament Bill. For a full half hour, a Prime Minister was unprecedentedly prevented from addressing a single audible word to the House by an organised chant of "traitor, traitor, traitor". F. E. Smith and Lord Hugh Cecil were the ring leaders. As a biographer of Gladstone and Asquith, I thought I knew well these two stories. Yet I find that after reading Silvester's book, I know them much better, and more in the



Riotous scenes of days gone by: Irish nationalists are ejected from the House in March, 1901

round than I did before.

Despite my citation of these two unfortunate and even squalid incidents, the volume is on the whole a paean of praise to the British Parliament in its heyday. The working assumption of its members, both those who succeeded and those who did not, as well as of those who reported its proceedings, was that it was the greatest deliberative assembly in the world, a jewel in Britain's crown, and revered as such by a grateful people.

Even those who gently satirised Parliament did so against a background of affection and respect. Trollope, who tried unsuccessfully to be elected, regarded being a member as "the greatest honour

which could possibly befall a man", and Harold Nicolson, although he was incomparably a better writer than he was a politician, recorded that, after he had lost his seat, he could never go near Westminster at night and see shining the light above Big Ben, which indicated that the House was still sitting, without experiencing a twinge of dismay that he was no longer a member.

The style and opportunities of the sketch writers were very different in earlier days. Their work was supplemented by extensive straight reporting. They were not required to be mocking at all costs. And they were given much more space, even in the popular papers. William Barkeley was for instance allowed to provide

the *Daily Express* with up to 1,500 words a parliamentary day for nearly 40 years, which were, in the optimistic words of Lord Beaverbrook, "a morning joy for nearly four million homes". Gone is the spaciousness, but gone too are "the nearly four million" *Express* readers.

There are one or two errors of designation or date, but where so much fascinating information is provided an occasional lapse is inevitable. A little more serious is the frequent failure to give the date of an incident where the description of it is in a volume of memoirs published many years later. But these are quibbles. It is a splendid and highly readable anthology.

Thinking as a contact sport

It's been done before, of course. In 1801, for example, Johann Gottlieb Fichte published *A Report, Clear as the Sun, for the General Public on the Real Essence of the Latest Philosophy: An Attempt to compel the Reader to Understand*.

Scruton eschews strong-arm tactics, but he is usually as clear as the sun. "This book ... attempts to teach philosophy by doing it," Scruton announces in the first chapter. "Although I refer to the great philosophers, I give no reliable guide to their ideas." Actually, Scruton has considerable talent in condensing the complex arguments and ideas of the masters. Though it is true that *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Philosophy* should be properly entitled *An Intelligent Person's (With Lots of Time to Spare) Guide to Philosophy* since its slimness belies the fatness of its contents.

Scruton's *Modern Philosophy* (1994) remains the overlord of philosophy primers, so what does the frog-bashing, frog-hunting thinker have to offer here? The *Intelligent Guide* revisits much of the same territory (Descartes and Lyotard get slapped around) but the scope is wider: the book is a sort of evening with Roger Scruton in which poetry, music and animal behaviour get a strong look-in. Scruton is at his best packaging giants like Descartes, Kant, Hegel and Wittgenstein, which he does meticulously and arousingly, though there are moments of sudden acceleration in which the intellectual G-forces can press the reader back into his chair.

I hazard a guess that a statement such as: "Dogs, apes and bears have desires, but they do not make choices" will guarantee him a lively reception in zoology departments. It may well be that there is some barrier setting us aside from the rest of the animal kingdom, but after the work of E. O. Wilson and others, it's risky to loose off simple sentences like that.

The chapter on sex offers some of the densest language: "sexual arousal has, then, an epistemic and interpersonal dimensionality." (I'm still internationally.) This thinking about that one.) This chapter also has some hazy thinking (which certainly had me yelling in the manner of an audience at a pantomime, "oh, no it isn't") to some of Scruton's arguments and a confusion of love and sex: "to someone agitated by his desire for Jane, it is ridiculous to say, 'Take Henrietta, she will do just as well.'" It depends. To say if Henrietta is better looking, better in bed, wants her sister to join in and has a yacht in the Bahamas, someone might well be prepared to transfer his desire. The problem here is that this chapter, like most of the others, shouldn't be just read but discussed.

"I should not like my writing to spare other people the trouble of thinking. But, if possible, to stimulate

someone to the heights of his own." Is what Wittgenstein put in the preface to *Philosophical Investigations*. This is the essence of all good philosophy and Scruton's goal. Philosophy isn't the only way of learning to think, but it is one of the best, and philosophy has no better salesman than Scruton.

Doing philosophy on your own, however, is like doing karate on your own: ultimately there's no substitute for full contact. The *Intelligent Guide* nevertheless contains wonderful stretching exercises (and Duckworth deserves some award for this and the excellence of its other titles).

But it is the clash of ideas, just as with the collisions in a particle accelerator, that reveals the constituents and the strength of your thoughts. It is a pity that Scruton doesn't include his phone number, because he is, in effect, standing on the other side of the pitch along with Descartes, Kant and Wittgenstein chanting: come and have a go if you think you're hard enough.

Tibor Fischer
AN INTELLIGENT PERSON'S GUIDE TO PHILOSOPHY
By Roger Scruton
Duckworth, £12.95
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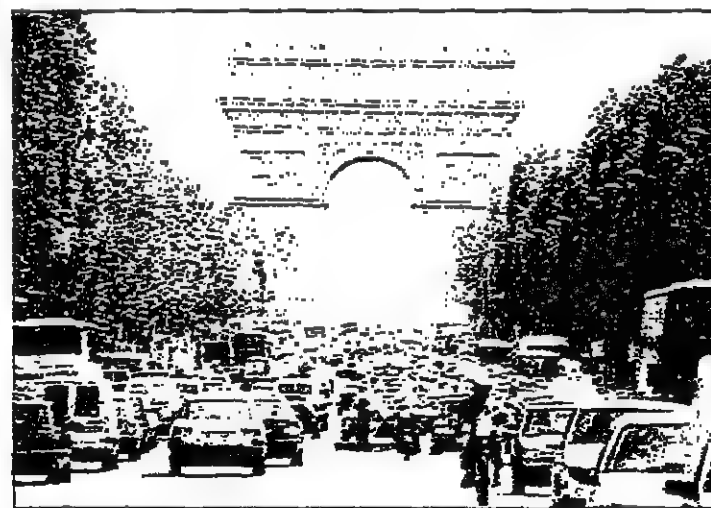
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CHANGING TIMES

To shoot the political rapids

After eight years in Washington as correspondent of *The Guardian*, Martin Walker understands the United States far better than many American journalists. In this new biography of President Clinton, he paints a vivid portrait not only of the friends of Bill who came to the capital from Little Rock in 1993 to shape the new Administration but also of the seamy, semi-tropical political subculture from which he and they sprang.

He understands how lucky Bill Clinton has been, noting correctly that he would never have survived the New Hampshire primary if the opposition had not been so feckless — if Bob Kerrey had run a competent campaign, or if Mario Cuomo or Al Gore had summoned the nerve to run. And he understands how Bill Clinton's luck of discipline (in matters sexual as well as political) is balanced by an indomitable will that has carried him through a career filled with crises.

Walker's book takes the reader into the Clinton political headquarters during the 1992 campaign, disclosing details about staff and strategy that show how the Presidency was won. It reports on the tug-of-war that developed between Clinton's Oxford and Little Rock friends on the one hand and his political advisers on the other, and how James Carville, the Cajun populist, had to watch the inauguration



President Clinton looks ahead on the campaign trail

R. W. Apple, Jr.
CLINTON
The President They Deserve
By Martin Walker
Fourth Estate, £20
ISBN 1 857 415 X

not from a choice seat but on television at home. That was a telling moment: the first days of the Administration were a mess partly because the Arkansas mafia failed to protect the new President from political boobytraps.

But this is a book that specialises in giving Clinton the benefit of the doubt. That is foretold in the introduction, where Walker touts his friendship with Sidney Blumenthal, Special Political Correspondent for *The New Yorker* and a cheerleader for the

Clintons. So while extended treatment is given here to the Whitewater affair and other scandals, relatively little is made of the Clintons' bobbing and weaving as they sought to cover up. It is not necessary to embrace far-fetched theories regarding Vince Foster's death to see that both Clintons, and especially the President, are notably economical with the truth, or that they are inept judges of political associates. It was surely the President's fault, not just the poisonous gift of fate, that so many people in his Administration went to jail or faced investigation by special prosecutors. Walker tends to blame it on a conspiracy by right-wing elements in the press.

More important, I think, Walker misunderstands the state of play in the Democratic Party and the electorate as a whole. "The old Democrats,"

he writes, "had broadly achieved what they set out to do, and had for a generation suffered from a general bafflement about what to do next." Well, no. They had not solved the problem of poverty in America, nor the problem of racism, to choose two of the great goals of "old Democrats" like John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and they had alienated the voters in trying. The problems remained, but they had neither the means nor new ideas to solve them.

At times, Clinton understands this, as in his campaign for re-election, which has been marked by only the most modest new initiatives and, notably, by his acceptance of a welfare "reform" that has infuriated many liberal backers. At times he does not, as when he and Hillary Clinton grossly overestimated the force of his electoral mandate, chose a largely discredited social engineer named Ira Magaziner to help them reform the nation's health care system and came up with a plan so preposterously complicated that even the President could not fathom it. It failed not because of nefarious entrenched interests or a hostile press but because the Clintons overreached. His (their) comeback began only when Dick Morris came back on board and the President scaled down his plans.

R. W. Apple Jr is Washington Bureau Chief of *The New York Times*.

Woolf at the door

clears, his chest hair falls out, and he wakes up one morning as a woman.

The shock of the event is compounded by the calmness with which the narrator takes it. But one searches in vain for any guiding purpose, such as an exploration of the artificiality of gender roles. At most, it might be seen as an homage to Virginia Woolf, the poet laureate of self (although, even at its most self-referential, *Orlando* maintains a narrative drive).

Martel's method proves to be counter-productive. *Self* is so solipsistic that even the sex-change carries little weight. It makes no difference whether the narrator is a man or a

woman: all that counts is that he or she is. Throughout, the narrative voice remains constant: descriptions of menstruation replace those of masturbation; while the feminist sentiments which are expressed on a Turkish holiday might just as easily come from an enlightened man.

THEN, AFTER 250 pages, the novel springs to life. The narrator falls in love with Tito, an Hungarian immigrant. At last, Martel creates a second character rather than simply itemising him and develops emotions as well as perceptions. This is followed by a powerfully delineated rape, during which what has previ-

ously been a typographical trick (the use of split pages to convey different languages) becomes a vivid expression of a fragmented self.

The book's saving graces are Martel's breezy style and witty insights. But they come at a high price. Background information filters the foreground, with far too many lists, travelogues and synopses of abortive fictions. The narrator's perceptions are too rarely that of the reader's sympathies. Unlike other 20th-century metamorphoses, *Self* is not a claim for Martel's previously published stories, one can only presume that its pointlessness is the point.

MICHAEL ARDITTI

Bargains of the week — from a rum festival in the British Virgin Islands to a fly-drive break in Catalonia

HOTELS

THE Grosvenor House in London is cutting its rates by 40 per cent in the first three months of 1997. Single and double rooms now cost £130 and £145 respectively. Details: 0171-499 6363.

■ **CHOOSE** and buy your Christmas presents while staying at the Sloane Hotel in Chelsea. This town-house hotel, with room rates from £130 a night, sells most antiques to be found in its rooms, such as a Limoges soap dish for £15 or an Edwardian cigar box for £60. Details: 0171-581 5757.

■ **SALISBURY'S** Rose & Crown Hotel, a 13th-century coaching inn on the banks of the Avon, includes admission to an exhibition about Christmas traditions in its weekend breaks, costing £47 a person a night. Details: 01722 309955.

■ **WINTER** breaks at Shrigley Hall Hotel, a country house set in 262 acres of Cheshire parkland, includes golf or beauty treatments, along with breakfast and dinner for the special rate of £70 a person a night, based on double occupancy. Details: 01625 575757.

■ **A NEW** Year's Eve package at Brandstatch Place in Fawkhams, Kent, costs £105 a person for overnight accommodation, dinner, dance, and recovery brunch. Details: 01474 872239.

■ **ENJOY** a three-course dinner at the Haycock Hotel, Wansford, near Peterborough, between December 27 and 30 and January 1 and 5, and stay overnight for £15 a person. Details: 01780 782223.

■ **A TRADITIONAL** Victorian Christmas is on offer at the Oakley Court Hotel, set in 35 acres along the River Thames near Windsor. Price is £435 a person to cover full

board for three days and special seasonal entertainments, with a trip to the pantomime or river cruise included. Details: 01753 609988.

■ **A COMPLIMENTARY** bottle of champagne will await returning shoppers from the new year sales staying at the Gloucester Hotel in South Kensington. The package is available throughout January and costs £109 for two people a night. Minimum stay two nights. Details: 0171-373 6030.

■ **A 50 per cent** discount on mini-bar charges is offered as part of the "business bonus" package at the Conrad International Hotel in Hong Kong, valid until February 28 next year. Rates start at £243 a room a night, and include limousine transfers, room upgrades and laundry. Details: 0990 445866.

■ **THE Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat**, between Nice and Monte Carlo, has a special offer until the end of April next year (excluding Christmas and Easter) of £356 a person for two nights, including hire car or airport transfers, lunch or dinner and other extras. Details: 0800 998852.

■ **THE television** chef Richard Cawley, of the BBC2 programme *Ready Steady Cook*, is guesting at the Lanes Restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel in Park Lane from November 11 to 17. Details: 0171-499 0888.

■ **THE four-star** De Vere Hotel in Swindon, Wiltshire, has a special go-karting weekend offer in November at £65 a person a night, through Superbreak Mini-Holidays. The price includes half-board accommodation, along with tuition and practice sessions at a local go-kart track. Details: 0161-238 5257.



Take a short break for £207 to Venice and see the Basilica Della Salute from the Grand Canal

FERRIES

IT is approaching the season of day shopping trips to France. Among offers available is Stena Line. Dover-Calais for £15 a car, £1 a passenger, valid until December 31 (£10 supplement for Saturdays). Book through Eurodrive. Details: 0181-324 4000.

■ **SCANDINAVIAN** Seaways has a two-night hotel break in Berlin, leaving Harwich on November 3 for Hamburg and onward by rail. Prices start at £203 a person, including breakfast. Details: 0990 333111.

■ **SWANSEA** Cork Ferries has a winter fare of £149 return for a car and up to five adults for travel on the Irish Sea until December 15. Details: 01792 456116.

■ **IRISH** Ferries has a midweek one-way fare available for £79 on its Pembroke-Rosslare route and £89 on Holyhead-Dublin, available until December 17. Details: 0345 171717.

■ **RED** Funnell has a special five-day return on Southampton-Cowes for a car and up to four people for £36. The offer is available from the 10am Monday to Friday car ferry service for any sailing at weekends until December 20. Details: 01703 334010.

STEWART KENDALL/SPORTS PHOTO

FLIGHTS

FARES have tumbled by up to 50 per cent between London, Antwerp and Brussels after Sabena's joint venture service with Virgin Express. The return business-class fare now costs between £160 and £200, with economy at £90 to £130. Details: 0181-780 1444.

■ **AUSTRAVEL** is offering a £399 return from Gatwick to Perth, with Britannia Airways, departing on November 7. Passengers may stay for between two and eight weeks. Details: 0171-734 7755.

■ **IBERIA** is offering a £99 return from Gatwick to Madrid and from Heathrow to Barcelona and Palma until December 7. The fares must be bought three days in advance. Details: 0171-830 0011.

■ **TORONTO** for £169 return is available from Air Travel Advisory Bureau for flights until November 13, returning by November 26. Details: 0171-636 5000.

■ **FREGATA** Travel is marketing one-night mid-week packages in Prague suitable for business travellers. CSA flights and accommodation at the first-class Forum Hotel cost £279, almost 50 per cent less than the normal air fare. Details: 0171-734 5101.

VENICE, where singers can now serenade visitors on the canals all day by official decree, is on offer for short breaks from Citalia for £207 a person, including return flights and two nights' bed and breakfast. Details: 0181-686 5533.

■ **BRUSSELS** for two nights in three-star accommodation with return Eurostar travel is on offer for £139 a person from United Air Travel. For an extra £50, you can go first-class and have free meals. Details: 0171-930 5153.

■ **GAMBIA** for a fortnight with half-board accommodation for £559 a person, using a flight from Gatwick next Tuesday, is available from Page & Moy. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ **A CATALAN** fishing port is the destination for a four-day fly-drive break with Inntavel Shortbreaks, with a flight from Heathrow to Toulouse on November 8, car hire and three nights at a hotel in Collioure. Details: 01633 628862.

■ **PUERTO RICO** is available for £381 for a fortnight's First Choice self-catering holiday from Co-op Travelcare, with a flight from Bristol on November 9. Details: 0161-827 5290.

■ **EGYPTIAN** adventures lasting 15 days and starting from Cairo on November 19 are available for £399 a person, a £130 saving, from The Dock. The price includes accommodation, most meals, a cruise and entrance fees, but not flights. Details: 0171-370 4555.

■ **THE RUM** Festival at the Long Bay Beach Resort on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands can be enjoyed as part of a Caribbours holiday from November 22, including seven nights' accommodation

and return flights. Price: £349 a person. Details: 0171-581 3517.

■ **NEW YORK** for three nights is on offer for £449 a person from Major Travel. The holiday, starting on November 28, includes return BA flights and accommodation at the city centre Metro Hotel. Details: 0171-485 7017.

■ **ALL-INCLUSIVE** holidays in Mediterranean resorts are still available this winter from First Choice. A week in Malta costs from £225 a person and a week in Fuerteventura from £349. Details: 0181-380 8155.

■ **SAVINGS** of up to £70 on holidays to the Canaries and a reduction of £50 a person on half-board accommodation at hotels in Lanzarote and Fuerteventura are among price cuts announced by Portland Direct. Details: 0990 002200.

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■ **FESTIVAL** Cruises has announced savings of about £500 on the Bolero for a Caribbean cruise departing from Spain on December 6 for 15 nights and calling at Madeira and several West Indies ports. Prices start at £999 a person and include return flights to Spain. Details: 0171-436 0827.

■ **LE CORBIER** is available for Christmas for £142 a person from Motours. The price is based on five people sharing a studio apartment for a week from December 21 and includes a ski lift pass and return Le Shuttle crossing for car and passengers. Details: 01892 518555.

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Bring on the new jeans

THE TIMES

The Times in America

Bring on the new jets

THE illuminated numbers on the bedside clock burnt their message into my dormant brain that it was 05:54 on Saturday: the day I was supposed to be able to lie abed. But the noise of a large jet aircraft flying seemingly a few feet immediately above my rooftop had broken my slumber. I have had little sympathy, in this column, for noise protesters, arguing that anyone who chooses to live under a flight path can hardly complain when aircraft fly overhead. But then I am generally not troubled by aircraft noise.

Recently, however, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of noisy jets early in the morning. So I decided to find out more about my sleep wrecker and those that followed before the sun was up.

My intruder was shown by the radio-linked computers in the Gatwick Noise Office to have been BA flight 232 from Bermuda, a 16-year-old DC-10 with 182 souls on board due to arrive at Gatwick at 06:50 but which had been blown across the Atlantic quicker than normal by strong winds.

It crossed my house at a comfortable 6,900ft. But weather conditions and the pilot's need to change speed resulted in a blast of sound aimed at Haywards Heath. Between five and seven o'clock that morning, there were 28 arrivals and departures at Gatwick, 11 of which flew over Haywards Heath. The Noise Office explained that recent

The Heritage Secretary calls, below, for more help for the leisure industry and, right, points out how it may be failing tourism



Lakeland Village in the Lake District, and opening in the spring, will offer accommodation at prices such as £164 for a family of four staying four nights

Britain opens the door to more holiday villages

HOLIDAY villages, which are increasing in number and attracting hundreds of thousands of families, received Government backing in a speech by Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, this week.

She called on planning authorities to work in partnership with the leisure industry to encourage such developments only a day after the High Court had given the go-ahead for a controversial £100 million scheme in Kent.

Mrs Bottomley told a planning and tourism conference that the authorities should take into account the needs of the tourism industry and the economic and employment benefits it offers.

She said: "There are good examples of local planning authorities working in partnership with the private sector

to help bring on-stream the sort of new developments, such as all-weather holiday centres, that we need to meet changing consumer demand. I would commend this to other authorities."

Kent County Council and the local Shepway council had supported plans by Oasis Villages, part of the Rank Leisure group, for a 430-acre village in an area of outstanding natural beauty but were opposed by an action group and the Countryside Commission.

A Government planning inspector ruled that the benefits of the village, which will accommodate 4,300 guests, outweighed any environmental harm and his decision was upheld in the High Court earlier this week.

The decision and Mrs Bottomley's

By Tony Dawe

encouraging words are likely to pave the way for further villages. The Kent site will be the fifth to be built in Britain and the second developed by Oasis. The company will open its first village for 3,500 visitors in the Lake District this spring to rival the three already in operation by Center Parcs.

Both companies are keeping future plans close to their chests but Julie Gould, a spokeswoman for Oasis Villages, said: "Research by our company and the English Tourist Board suggests that there is demand in the United Kingdom for between six and eight holiday villages."

"The existing ones have been running 90 per cent full this summer, showing there is a pent-up demand for this type of product." The company launched the brochure for its Lakeland village last week and says it is delighted with the response.

The village offers a range of accommodation, from one-bedroom apartments to four-bedroom suites. Prices for a family of four in a two-bedroom lodge start at £164 for a midweek stay of four nights and three-night weekend breaks in a three-bedroom detached lodge cost £269. Features include a "world of water", a lake offering water sports, a country club with squash courts, snooker tables, plus a gym and a health centre.

James Whinnell, managing director of Oasis Villages, said: "Our concept is based on the ever-increasing demand for a quality short break that offers quiet enjoyment of the countryside."

Young people need training for tourism

By Richard Duce

BRITAIN'S tourist industry risks losing out to other European competitors unless it resolves problems of poor pay and training, according to a report for the National Heritage Department, published yesterday.

Hotels and restaurants will not attract quality applicants for jobs unless young people can be urged to treat the industry as a worthwhile career prospect.

According to the report, based on research by the accountants Coopers & Lybrand and the London Business School, earnings from tourism in Britain increased by 5.9 per cent each year between 1980 and 1992. The European average was 8 per cent. It said: "In an increasingly competitive international market we cannot afford to ignore consumer research that suggests that the quality and value for money of our tourist product does not always meet the customers' expectations."

The report goes on to state that 45 per cent of full-time staff and 74 per cent of part-timers had received no job-related training. The figures gave "cause for concern", as 55 per cent of all staff are part-time. Employers believed the low profile and poor image of the industry deterred many youngsters from seeking a career in it. Skill shortages had been exposed at craft level, particularly for chefs.

Average earnings are 40 per cent lower than in the rest of the service sector. Despite such drawbacks the tourism industry continues to grow and over the next ten years it is estimated that employment will increase by 400,000.

Launching the report yesterday, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, said: "If we are to continue the



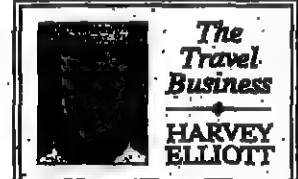
Mrs Bottomley: urging a co-ordinated programme

current growth and keep up with the competition, it is vital that the industry attracts, motivates, develops and retains people who will build up a first-class workforce. We must get the message across, particularly to young people, that this is an industry that can offer early responsibility, flexibility, variety and real opportunity and reward.

"The payoff, in terms of increased customer satisfaction, is clear. One employer found that an initiative combining training and performance measurement led to a 50 per cent reduction in complaints and a 400 per cent increase in compliments. By making a concerted effort, we can start the process of developing a first class-service culture throughout British tourism and hospitality."

She is urging a co-ordinated programme which would include regional tourist boards, trade associations and the Training and Enterprise Councils.

People Working in Tourism and Hospitality is available from the Heritage Department.



westerly winds had forced aircraft to fly over the town in order to land from the east. Local people claim that in the past year the number of complaints has increased by 40 per cent and the number of night flights has risen by 70 per cent.

Officially, the increase in complaints almost exactly mirrors the growth in flights. Yet there is no measure of, let alone penalty against, inbound aircraft. Only outbound flights are monitored.

This cannot be right. Schedule airlines are enjoying one of their most profitable years and many are finally able to afford newer, quieter fleets. They should be encouraged to buy new jets — and soon. A voluntary agreement reached now, setting a noise limit for inbound flights that is acceptable both to local people and the airline industry, is preferable to the complete ban on night flights being demanded with increasing ferocity.

Executives tire of activity breaks

By Harvey Elliott

OVERWORKED executives have confounded travel industry experts by flocking to all-inclusive hotels in the Caribbean where they can "flop out" rather than have adventure and activity breaks.

Martin Brackenbury, chairman of the Federation of Tour Operators, said this week that the industry had been wrong when it had predicted a big growth in "activity" holidays.

He explained: "We expected that holidays would become longer and people would seek to do more. The reverse has been the case. People have sought to flop out and do as

little as possible. We put it down to the immense pressures imposed on people in work in the 1990s."

On holiday, most people are looking for an alternative to the stress of their working lives, he said. "This is why the all-inclusive holiday has been such a runaway success. It provides a sense of freedom with nothing extra to pay, all entertainment laid on, no physical exertion or mental effort required — in fact, a kind of holiday hospital from which you return re-

freshed and ready to face the stresses and strains of work."

While all-inclusive hotels in the Caribbean are booming, the European resorts are having a tough time attracting hard-pressed holidaymakers, especially from those countries imposing strict economic constraints in an attempt to reach the criteria for a single European currency.

Mr Brackenbury said: "Mediterranean countries that in the past were low-cost now have a cost of living in resorts not dissimilar to the

level in Northern Europe.

"The result for the North European is that it costs less to go to an all-inclusive hotel in the Dominican Republic than to go to a similar category hotel, half-board, in the Canaries. It is hardly surprising that there are many Europeans who had only dreamt of the Caribbean who are now seizing the opportunity presented to them."

As unemployment rages through much of mainland Europe, however, even those in work are saving hard, often because of the fear of redundancy.

Continental coach tours go upmarket

By Simon de Bruxelles

A NEW luxury coach company is to introduce club-class travel throughout Europe. The Glider service hopes to do for the coach what the Orient Express did for the train.

Instead of the usual 53 seats, the Glider has 27 air-craft-style reclining chairs, giving plenty of leg room and the ability to lie back. The company has also chosen routes intended to appeal to more sophisticated travellers, avoiding destinations that are popular with economy-class coaches.

They range from three-day trips to the north of France and the Low Countries to more substantial tours of the Côte d'Azur, the Rhineland, Norway and Eastern Europe. Hotels on the route have been selected for their quality and local character. Large chains have been avoided.

Christopher Brela, commercial manager of Citrus Travel, the parent company, said: "We went to the hotels expecting to vet them; instead, we found that they were vetting us on whether we could deliver the type of client they were used to."

The tours cost about £1,100 for a nine-night trip through Saxony and Bohemia.

Fly to Corfu and visit Albania

By Steve Keenan

ALBANIA is being linked with Corfu in twin-centre package holidays offered by several tour operators for 1997. The opening of Albania to tourists has encouraged specialist companies such as Regent, Explore Worldwide and Sunvil to use the two-hour ferry crossing from Corfu to enable British holidaymakers to visit one of the least-known countries in Europe.

Noel Josephides, managing director of Sunvil, said: "Albania will be one of the very big places in the next decade, if it resists the temptation to make a fast buck. Right now, it has curiosity value; the country is not a resort. You can visit a country where you can't drive at more than 15mph on the main coastal road."

Sunvil is packaging flights, an overnight stay in Corfu, ferry crossing and five nights in Albania from about £600 next year, with the option of a second week in Corfu.

The move into Albania is helping operators that have had a tough year selling Corfu and the rest of the Greek islands. Corfu, Crete and Rhodes have suffered most from this year's holiday downturn; package sales are down

by 28 per cent. The murder of a British yachtsman in Corfu last month and complaints about poor airport facilities have compounded the image problem for Greece.

Interpol has been called in to help to track down boat thieves operating from nearby Albania who shot and killed the Briton.

At a British tour operators' conference in Corfu last week, Christanthos Sarlis, the island's mayor, launched a savage attack on central government, blaming the downturn on a lack of investment in Corfu. "Corfu has always been neglected by Greek central government," he said. "Hard efforts have to be made to revive this place."

The Association of Independent Tour Operators was told that Greece is to more than double its consumer advertising and funding of operator programmes next year.

Panos Argyros, the UK director of the Greek Tourist Office, said that for 1997, the office is to spend £2 million on advertising and subsidising the brochures of 23 operators that offer diverse packages "rather than just sun, sea and sand".

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Lufthansa unveils new-look cabins

THE battle for the lucrative business air travel market reached a new intensity yesterday as Lufthansa unveiled a multimillion pound package of improvements with which it hopes to challenge British Airways on flights between the UK and Germany and on other key European routes, Harvey Elliott writes.

The new-look cabins with 32cm-wide grey leather seats will be unveiled on the airline's intra-European routes from tomorrow.

Lufthansa plans to emphasise the difference between business and economy class. It will have "ticketless" check-in procedures by phone for those prepared to pay more for a business class seat and service, while valets will meet business travellers arriving by car at the terminal, park it for them and then meet them on their return.

The new service will feature in a £12 million advertising campaign.

The growing importance of business-class travel has already led BA to upgrade its long-haul and European flights with remarkable success. Long-haul services, for example, have grabbed an



extra 6 per cent of market share since the introduction of the "cradle" seat and other services in a £50 million programme completed earlier this year.

Lufthansa is determined to fight back in Europe, where business travellers produce 19 per cent of the airline's total revenue.

Now BA is targeting domestic flights with a £10 million improvement programme aimed at trumping a similar move made last month by rival British Midland.

The high demand for business class travel has enabled airlines to hike fares on the busiest routes by at least 6 per cent.

Virgin to the rescue

VIRGIN rescued its customers this week when Eurostar passengers hit by a Belgian general strike were able to fly home from Brussels with Richard Branson's airline, Steve Keenan writes.

More than 4,000 passengers aboard Eurostar — which is part-owned by Virgin — were forced to disembark in Lille when the strike brought Bel-

gium's rail network to a standstill on Monday. They carried on to Brussels by coach.

Virgin was able to bring the passengers back on the same day under a new agreement with Sabena, the Belgian state airline, which enables it to operate crews on the route between Brussels and Heathrow.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Battered Britain have pride to play for

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE IN CHRISTCHURCH

NOT only must a mentally and physically exhausted Great Britain overturn long odds to avoid only a second 2-0 series loss to New Zealand, victory in the final match here tomorrow is necessary to spare an ill-fated tour party the ignominy of becoming the first to leave these shores without a win of any kind.

That Britain could have been 2-0 up in the international series, rather than staring at a repeat of the "blackwash" suffered here in 1984, in no way disguises the uncomfortable truth that New Zealand are better equipped than they have been for many years.

New Zealand have come from behind to win each of the first two games. In Auckland, Britain collapsed because of the unfortunate late sin-binning of Adrian Morley; however, even with a full

lifts a side. Instead, we must chisel out a win. There are players on this tour, like Paul Sculthorpe and Morley, who are way ahead of their time. The trouble is you forget they're 19 coming off the back of a debilitating year and are still learning the game.

In playing the cards dealt him, Larder's problem is a shortage of aces. Britain need Goulding — whose ankle problem is unlikely to prevent him starting — on his game, otherwise the attack shrivels up. Betts and Farrell caused considerable havoc in the first half of the second match, before New Zealand managed to short-circuit the two live wire forwards.

Morale, not helped by the financial scrambling on tour, has been harder to lift among the players since the series defeat was confirmed. Evocative talk of previous Britain victories against the odds, including memorable defeats of Australia in 1988 and 1994, have been used in team meetings to bolster confidence towards salvaging a consolation win.

Although held together by sticking plaster in several cases, the introduction of the experienced Chris Joyce into the back row in place of Sculthorpe might be Larder's only change to the starting line-up from the second international. As a precaution, Tuisen Tollet has been recalled from holiday in New Zealand, confident of averting Britain's whitewash of them in 1993, introduce Marc Ellis on the left wing for the injured Richard Barnett.

complement of players, they surrendered a winning position in Palmerston North. On both occasions, back-to-back domestic seasons visibly caught up with the side in the last quarter, when New Zealand were at their strongest.

For the St Helens contingent — notably Bobbie Coulling, Anthony Sullivan and Kieron Cunningham — the toll of 15 months without a break appears to have caught up with them. It was a ridiculous schedule and defeat by New Zealand at the end of it should come as no surprise, particularly given the talented players unable to make the trip and the comparative inexperience of the touring squad.

Phil Larder, the Britain coach, said: "I wish we did have a Gary Connolly or Jason Robinson in the backs to inject the explosive burst that



Roy Christie, of the Bank of Montreal team that finished second, plays out of the Anaconda bunker on the 5th hole at Chart Hills yesterday

Impressive Reuters copy winning formula

By MEL WEBB

IF EVER news of a victory in a regional final of The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge was going to echo round the globe, this was the one. The Eastern Home Counties competition, at Chart Hills, Kent, yesterday was won by one of the world's great news agencies, and if they cannot publicise themselves, who can?

Reuters, the international news and information agency, gave one of the most impressive displays of high scoring seen in a regional final of the nation's premier corporate golf tournament. In winning with a score of 97 Stableford points, three ahead of the Bank of Montreal and six in front of Swale Chamber

of Commerce, Reuters played remarkable golf over the last 11 holes.

In that sequence, the team of Ray Thompson, Bob Ballou, Nick Hardy and David Bennett gathered only one seven-point score, but added seven sixes and three fives. It added up to 64 points, and their total of 51 on the back nine could scarcely be bettered, especially on a course as demanding as Chart Hills. This Nick Faldo creation is stunning on first sight and improves the more closely it is examined. Its beauty is matched by its degree of difficulty. Yet Reuters' golf on a day when the weather started peacefully but was made much tougher for the later groups by a capricious wind, was rarely less than



convincing. As so many other teams have done in this regional final series, they started with the simple aim of scoring five points per hole. A goal of 90 points might not at first seem an extravagant one, but that only three teams out of 25 attained it gives the lie to that.

Reuters did not make what they considered to be a good start, and they were two

behind their target after five holes. Then came the 6th, and with it a vital six points. "It could have gone either way at that stage," Hardy said. "We felt we needed to start making an impression, and we could just have easily fallen out of contention there."

They did not. Ballou, Thompson and Bennett all picked up net birdies for three points apiece. Six was what they wanted, six they got. They did not know it then, but the really dramatic stuff was about to start.

The solitary seven-points haul came on the 9th, and it took them to the turn on 46 points. Thompson's performance there was eccentric to pitch it at its kindest, and yet totally effective. He hit a tree off the tee, then struck a six-

iron and a short-range wedge to four feet, and made the putt for an unlikely net birdie and three points. Hardy did even better, his net eagle giving him four points.

Then came that extraordinary back nine. No other team went remotely close to Reuters' performance over that stretch: it was unbeatable stuff. Six sixes and three fives tell their own story.

SCORES: 8th Reuters Ltd: 94; Bank of Montreal: 97; Swale Chamber of Commerce: 101; Eastern Home Counties: 104; Reuters Ltd: 97; Bank of Montreal: 101; Swale Chamber of Commerce: 104; Reuters Ltd: 97; Bank of Montreal: 101; Swale Chamber of Commerce: 104.

FOOTBALL: PFA CHALLENGES PERCEPTION OF A SPORT RIDDLED WITH DRINK AND DRUGS

National game seeks to be positive about image

By JOHN GOODBODY

FOOTBALL has to change the public perception that professionals are "topped up" with booze and drugs, a leading players' representative said yesterday. Although the national game has been damaged by the spate of positive drugs tests and drinking scandals, including the public confessions of Paul Merson with cocaine and Tony Adams with alcohol, the Professional Footballers' Association believes that this view of the sport is very unfair.

Brendon Batson, the PFA deputy chief executive, said that he believed that there was now far more moderation and

responsibility in drinking. "We're getting away from the belief that football and drink go together like a marriage. The old idea of lagers on the back of a game, a leading players' representative said yesterday. Although the national game has been damaged by the spate of positive drugs tests and drinking scandals, including the public confessions of Paul Merson with cocaine and Tony Adams with alcohol, the Professional Footballers' Association believes that this view of the sport is very unfair.

The controversy over the drinking habits of England internationals surfaced before the European championship last summer with reports of the nightclub party in Hong Kong and the Catina Pacific flight back from the Far East. Batson, who was speaking in London at the United Kingdom Sports Council seminar on drugs, said that he was convinced that football did not have a problem with performance-enhancing drugs.

However, recent positive tests have showed that some players were taking social drugs. In 1994-95, there were 12 positive tests, of which eight were for marijuana and one for an amphetamine. Last season this dropped to seven, five of which were for marijuana and one for cocaine.

This season the number of tests in professional football in England is being doubled to about 300. Already more than 200 have been carried out, with no positive tests. Alan Hodson, who oversees the FA's programme, said: "The message is certainly being amplified by club doc-

tors. It would appear that the message is getting home.

"We are not trying to eliminate all drinking. We are just attempting to monitor where there is an excess of alcohol consumption. We are making progress but we have to accept that there will always be hiccup."

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

One form of communication-cutting play is called the "Scissors Coup". This flawed example occurred in the TGR high game.

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♠ A 4
♥ J 8 8
♦ A 10 9 4 2
♣ A 10 3

♠ K 10 8 8
♥ 6 4
♦ 8 5
♣ J 7 8 5 2

♠ Q 3
♥ K Q 10 3 2
♦ K 7 6 5
♣ K

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of diamonds

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Dutch treat

At the elite Fontys tournament in Tilburg, Holland, Loek van Wely, the Dutch grandmaster, had been making the running for most of the event. Last week, for example, I published in this column his very fine win against Anatoly Karpov, the Fide world champion. In the last round, though, Van Wely had to face his compatriot, Jeroen Piket. Sometimes, on such occasions, a friendly draw between co-nationals is the result. In this instance, no quarter was asked or given and Piket wore down his opponent's resistance in a long endgame to be rewarded with a share of first prize.

White: Loek van Wely
Black: Jeroen Piket
Tilburg, October 1996

King's Indian Defence

1. c4 Nf6
2. Nc3 g6
3. d4 Bg7
4. Bf4 0-0
5. Nf3 Bg4
6. Bg3 Bx7
7. Bx7 Bx7
8. Ng2 c6
9. Nc2 d5
10. d5 Nxd5
11. Bxd5 Nc6
12. Bc4 Nf6
13. Bb3 Nd7
14. Kf1 Bf8
15. Ke2 Bg7
16. Kd3 Bf8
17. Kc4 Bg7
18. Kb3 Bf8
19. Ka4 Bg7
20. Kc4 Bf8
21. Kb3 Bg7
22. Ka4 Bf8
23. Kb3 Bg7
24. Kc4 Bf8

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

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a. Purgative
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c. Defining God

DOPPER
a. A South African bigot
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c. To dilute

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard

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c. To dilute

WORD-WATCHING
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Tal - Tringov, Amsterdam 1964. The brilliant Latvian grandmaster Mikhail Tal had a well deserved reputation as a master of attack. How did he demonstrate his skills here?

Solution on page 45.

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DAVID ARNOLD COOPER
LIQUIDATOR
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NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO CLAIM

ANNELORE S. TRILLING LIMITED
Principal Trading Address:
10 All Malvern Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, England, WR14 3JN
Company Number 1897320

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above named company has been placed into liquidation and that the undersigned, as Liquidator, has received from the Registrar of Companies a copy of the winding-up order made by the court on 22 October 1996. I am now in receipt of the assets of the company and am in a position to distribute the same to the creditors of the company. Any creditor of the company who has a claim against the company should submit their claim in writing to the undersigned, as Liquidator, at the above address, as soon as possible, and in any event, not later than 21 days after the date of the publication of this notice.

DAVID ARNOLD COOPER
LIQUIDATOR
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Jury still out on Newcastle's ability to conquer Europe

By DAVID MADDOCK

ONE of Kevin Keegan's most endearing features is the emotion that he brings to his role as manager of Newcastle United. His heart is worn on his sleeve, a badge to an upfront honesty and integrity.

Sometimes, though, it beats just too vibrantly and he gets a little carried away, as he did after his side's exhilarating Uefa Cup victory over Ferencvaros, of Hungary, on Tuesday. Keegan, his voice cracking with emotion, almost took the assembled media back to that infamous night when he professed his undying love — if only his side could overhaul Manchester United.

On Tuesday evening, he was extravagant with praise, not criticism. "When you people start drooling over Real Madrid and Ajax," he said accusingly, "put your tapes on and see if they can do any better than this [the victory over Ferencvaros]. You all go on about continental football, but we showed we are their equal."



Aspirin: decisive goals against Ferencvaros

taken up, too, by many strands of the media, who reflected on the performance with similarly rose-tinted glasses.

It was, it is true, a fine attacking performance. When Newcastle take command of a game, they have the ability to destroy opponents, and Ferencvaros discovered this fact to their cost — but a world-class performance? Hardly.

Ferencvaros are a truly average side who showed ponderous tendencies in attack and defence. Keegan spoke afterwards of winning

the Uefa Cup this season, but it would surely be wiser to reserve judgment until after the next round, in three weeks' time.

The final 16 of the competition includes some of the finest sides in Europe at the moment. There is a strength among the likes of Internazionale, of Milan, SV Hamburg (Keegan's former club), AS Monaco, FC Bruges, Anderlecht, Feyenoord, Valencia and Karlsruhe that is perhaps unmatched in any other European competition.

Such teams would not have allowed Newcastle to feel their way so hesitantly into the match as Ferencvaros did on Tuesday, nor would they pass up good attacking positions or defend so badly.

Even Keegan admitted that there are now no easy options left in the draw, that will be made tomorrow, and added that the next game in the competition would be harder than the previous two. It was left to David Ginola, however, to put the performance against Ferencvaros into perspective.

Ginola has returned to form with a vengeance in recent weeks, and he was outstanding on Tuesday. Afterwards, he was at pains to point out that Newcastle cannot become overconfident about their performance.

"We played well, very well at times, but I believe that the tournament starts here," he said. "In many ways, the competition is the hardest to win because there are so many good sides from top nations in the draw. Remember, as well, that there could well be quite a few of this season's champions in there, rather than last season's, who qualified for the European Cup."

"I think that we showed a few of the European sides that we are a force to take notice of, but it is a stepping stone for us. We must use this experience to improve, to become stronger in the competition. We are getting there, we are on the way to becoming a top-class side, and this is a step."

For Ginola, the most important aspect of the victory was not the performance — he knows that Newcastle must become more streetwise in their defending — but the emergence of Faustino Asprilla, whose two goals effectively decided the contest.

"Tino is a wonderful character, but he needs to be loved to give his best, he needs the crowd to love him," Ginola said. "That's why I'm so happy he scored on Tuesday, because the crowd got behind him. It is a bonus for the club, because he is a wonderful player and, with the right backing, he will be very important."



Nick Barnaby signs autographs at Goodison Park yesterday after joining Everton from Middlesbrough in a deal worth more than £5 million

Liverpool vow not to make the same mistakes again

By PETER BALL

DEFEAT by Brondby in the Uefa Cup last year was a warning to Liverpool to take nothing for granted in European competition, but it would be a great surprise if they failed to reach the third round of the Cup Winners' Cup at Anfield tonight. Brondby's 1-0 win on Merseyside, after a goalless draw in the first leg in Denmark, put Liverpool out of the Uefa Cup in the second round 12 months ago and they are, understandably, wary of making a similar mistake against FC Sion, of Switzerland, in front of what will be a full house.

"There is no room for complacency when 40,000 people are shouting at you," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said yesterday. "We can't take anything for granted. They showed they can attack and score in the first leg."

Of course, so did Liverpool, who won that first encounter 2-1 and although both Sion's goalscorers, Bonny, and the playmaker, Vercruysse, had some encouraging moments under the shadow of the Alps two weeks ago, the Swiss

seem unlikely to present a real threat in the return.

In the first leg, Sion found it increasingly hard to handle the runs of Bjornebye, Mo-Manam and Berger. The most important point for Liverpool, however, was that the game marked Robbie Fowler's return to the team and to goalscoring after his barren start to the season. Since he applied the final touch for Liverpool's equaliser in Sion, he has started sparkling again on all cylinders.

It is hard to tell how Sion



Fowler: return to form

Phantom whistler adds to list of blows at Bristol

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRISTOL Rovers' switch from sharing Twerton Park with Bath City, to sharing the Memorial Ground with Bristol Rugby Club, has not gone without its hitches, even though Rovers are now back in their beloved city after a ten-year absence. After their first game at the Memorial Ground in August, it was found that the goalposts at one end were too high. It cast serious, albeit belated, doubts over the validity of one of the goals, which dipped in just under the crossbar. In the 1-1 draw against Stockport County.

After the 0-0 draw against Blackpool, both sides complained that the generous cushion of grass was not conducive to good play. It transpired that the lush surface had been prepared more for Bristol Rugby Club's European Conference fixture against Narbonne.

It is all part of the getting-to-know-you process at the Memorial Ground as the rugby union landlords take on the needs of their football tenants, who have signed a 21-year lease. Only two sides of the ground house spectators because of rebuilding works; a two-tier Portakabin acts as dressing rooms.

Strange though the early co-existence may have been, it pales into insignificance alongside the bizarre incident on Tuesday night when Rovers won 2-1 against Brentford, the Nationwide League second division leaders. Rovers triumphed deservedly but still owed much to the 47th-minute change by Kevin Dearden, the Brentford goalkeeper. He caught a hopeful job into the area from Andy Tillson, rolled it gently onto the ground, in preparation to kick it downfield, then froze.

Marcus Browning, the Wales and Rovers midfielder, could barely believe his luck. He nipped in, without a challenge from the startled Dearden, and guided the ball into the unguarded net. Cue frantic protests from Dearden. He claimed that he had heard a whistle from the terraces behind his goal, which is why he stopped. He thought a free kick had been awarded for offside against Browning.

George Cain, the referee, was implored to change his mind and disallow the gift of all goals. It was to no avail. Cain asked the stewards and police to seek out the alleged whistle-blower but ruled that play could restart with a Brentford kick-off. His decision stood and the game continued amid an atmosphere of widespread disbelief.

Posts that are too tall, grass that is too long, a phantom whistler. What weird phenomenon now awaits Bristol Rovers at their new home?

Becker put to flight by Parisian masses

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN PARIS

THE ORGANISERS of the Paris Open must be wondering what they have done wrong. In the first three days of the tournament they have lost eight seeds, Boris Becker, Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic having been sent packing yesterday. To add injury to insult, Thomas Muster limped away after just one set of his match against Stefan Edberg, having aggravated an old hip problem.

Officially, Becker was beaten 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 by Carlos Moya, of Spain, the man who beat Tim Henman, the British No. 1, on Monday. Becker, though, said he was overwhelmed by 7,000 Parisians baying for blood. "I felt like I was in a big zoo," he said. "Me and Moya were the big gorillas and all around us were some other animals trying to bother us all the time."

Certainly the crowd made its presence felt, shouting, cheering or booing at the end of every point — and sometimes before — while the stewards allowed people to wander around as they pleased. Becker, though, brought his troubles upon himself. He began the match looking tired and sluggish after his victory over Sampras in Stuttgart on Sunday, and before long he was one point away from going a set and 5-2 down. He managed to raise his game to resolve that particular crisis, but faltered again in the third set.

On the verge of defeat he was up to his old tricks, holding up Moya as he tried to serve for the match and complaining to the umpire about the crowd, the noise and the competence of the line judges. Not even a favourable overrule by the umpire on Moya's second match point could save him, Becker was gone.

"First of all my opponent deserved to win, he should have won in the second set but he got nervous," he said. "But coming after Stuttgart, this is like a madhouse. If people are constantly laughing, screaming and getting up it's impossible to play great tennis. They don't care, they just boo you all the time. That beat me."

Quite what had happened to Sampras was a mystery, at least to the No. 1 seed. Facing the height and might of Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, he could do nothing to combat the big man's serving power. "I didn't play my best," he said. "I wish I had an answer, but what can you do?"

That is a question that anyone who has ever worked with Ivanisevic has asked on many occasions. Depending on which side of bed he gets out of in the morning, he can either play like a dream or a drain. Yesterday, against Paul Haarhuis, of Holland, his heart was not in it and he was beaten 6-3, 6-2 in less than an hour.

Grandstand finish for Brighton fans

By MARK HODKINSON

THE last set of supporters to infiltrate Rochdale's "end" were from Bradford City, back in the late 1970s. On that occasion punches were swapped, but on Tuesday, during Rochdale's Nationwide League third division game against Brighton and Hove Albion, the currency was replica team shirts.

"Come and join us," was the chant from the Rochdale fans in the Sandy Lane End and the Brighton contingent duly obliged. They then stood side-by-side with their new allies from Lancashire. Thereafter, chants of "sack the board" and "loyal supporters" rang out from the home end. As a metaphor for the new kinship and camaraderie among football fans, this was consummate.

The finer points of the dispute between Brighton's fans and their hosts had to settle for a round of hand-shaking along the perimeter fence as stewards repelled them. The main body of Brighton fans were eventually ushered back to their own section. Spontaneously, they were clapped by the home fans.

the football league that has lost every one of its away games this season?

When Robbie Painter scored the last of Rochdale's three unanswered goals just a few minutes after half-time the mood of empathy between the fans was able to flourish.

The chanted dialogue began with "loyal supporters" ringing out from the Sandy Lane End. The song was directed to the visiting fans: in a town painted red by supporters of Manchester United and Liverpool, there is a defiance about staying loyal to Rochdale.

The Brighton fans clapped in appreciation. The invitation to join forces was then issued and a group of about 50 marched in a dignified manner towards the Rochdale end. Some completed the journey, while others had to settle for a round of hand-shaking along the perimeter fence as stewards repelled them. The main body of Brighton fans were eventually ushered back to their own section. Spontaneously, they were clapped by the home fans.

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CRICKET

Vaughan misses opening match

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL VAUGHAN was yesterday ruled out of the opening match of England's A's tour against a New South Wales XI in Tamworth today after failing to recover from a back strain.

The Yorkshire opener was ruled out of practice in Sydney with the complaint and, despite intensive treatment, has been unable to overcome the problem in time for the four-day match.

Jason Gallian, of Lancashire, looks certain to open alongside Mark Butcher, of Surrey, in Vaughan's absence, but England are delaying announcing their full line-up until just before the start of play.

Peter Such, the off spinner, was given an X-ray on his hand injury, sustained during nets on Tuesday, which confirmed his finger was only bruised and England are giving him as much time as possible to stage a recovery.

Andrew Harris, the Derbyshire fast bowler, hit on the foot during the practice, has recovered well and is in the 13 from whom the side will be chosen.

ENGLAND A (from A to Z): Holliday (captain), M.A. Butcher, J.P. Gallian, W.K. Heggie, M. J. Edwards, C. White, O.A. Smith, A. Jackson, A.P. Giles, D.W. Heasley, G. Chappell, P.M. Suck, A.J. Harris, N. Harvey, G. Gibson, P. Allen, J. Ambrose, S. Clark, D. Freeman, G. Glasby, S. Mather, P. Marston, A. McGuire, G. Rimmer, R. Storer, S. Thompson.

wickets in one-day international during his side's three-wicket victory over Zimbabwe at Quetta.

Wasim achieved the feat when he dismissed David Houghton leg-before with the fourth ball of the match, reaching the 300 mark from 208 limited-over matches.

However, it was Salim Malik, the former captain, who was the architect of Pakistan's success in overhauling Zimbabwe's total of 237 for nine in 50 overs on a difficult pitch.

Salim, selected as man of the match, after facing 77 balls and hitting six fours and a six, combined with Aamir Sohail, who hit four fours and a six in his innings of 55, in a 53-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Zimbabwe, batting first after winning the toss, were earlier rescued by the Flower brothers, who put on 143 for the fourth wicket after their team had been 25 for three.

Grant Flower narrowly missed his maiden one-day century when he was caught by Shahid Afridi off Salim's gentle spin for 91, and Andrew, his elder brother, contributed an invaluable 82.

Bob Cottam, dismissed as Somerset's director of coaching last season, is in line to return to Warwickshire as bowling coach — six years after quitting as manager when he criticised the committee and the chairman, Mike Smith.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MORONGORO, Italy: International Triathlon. Various mountain relay race (3x7.5km, 50km): Italy 1, Italy 2, Italy 3, Italy 4, Italy 5, Italy 6, Italy 7, Italy 8, Italy 9, Italy 10, Italy 11, Italy 12, Italy 13, Italy 14, Italy 15, Italy 16, Italy 17, Italy 18, Italy 19, Italy 20, Italy 21, Italy 22, Italy 23, Italy 24, Italy 25, Italy 26, Italy 27, Italy 28, Italy 29, Italy 30, Italy 31, Italy 32, Italy 33, Italy 34, Italy 35, Italy 36, Italy 37, Italy 38, Italy 39, Italy 40, Italy 41, Italy 42, Italy 43, Italy 44, Italy 45, Italy 46, Italy 47, Italy 48, Italy 49, Italy 50, Italy 51, Italy 52, Italy 53, Italy 54, Italy 55, Italy 56, Italy 57, Italy 58, Italy 59, Italy 60, Italy 61, Italy 62, Italy 63, Italy 64, Italy 65, Italy 66, Italy 67, Italy 68, Italy 69, Italy 70, Italy 71, Italy 72, Italy 73, Italy 74, Italy 75, Italy 76, Italy 77, Italy 78, Italy 79, Italy 80, Italy 81, Italy 82, Italy 83, Italy 84, Italy 85, Italy 86, Italy 87, Italy 88, Italy 89, Italy 90, Italy 91, Italy 92, Italy 93, Italy 94, Italy 95, Italy 96, 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Touching celebration of the life of young player

Andrew Longmore sees students led through uncharted emotional waters

The match against the Stanley XV has been a glorious anachronism in the Oxford University calendar for some time. A doff of the cap to some long-forgotten tradition, an excuse for a half-term frolic and a few beers. The score has never mattered much. Yesterday, it mattered not a jot, but the occasion was the most poignant in the 127-year history of the club.

The afternoon was dedicated to the memory of the burly, ebullient, dyed-in-the-wool Aussie figure of Ian Tucker, an afternoon that recalled the words of a long-serving obituarist on *The Guardian*. Asked once how he coped with so much death, he replied that obituaries were a celebration of life. Those were the exact words used to describe yesterday's match by Steve Hill, the director of rugby at Oxford University, who has had to navigate uncharted emotional waters in the past three days.

Tucker died on Sunday evening at the age of 23, a day after suffering head injuries in a seemingly innocuous tackle in the closing minutes of a defeat by Saracens. Rugby players know their game is dangerous — statistics tell them so — but few believe that an incident so shockingly

innocent could cost them a year's life. No one was to blame for Tucker's death except the sport that has given him a near lifetime's pleasure and, in these avaricious times, not a penny.

"We're going by the seat of our pants at the moment," Hill said. "It really is a matter of taking each day as it comes." Both sides wore armbands and the dark blue No 12 has been retired for the season as a mark of respect.

The process of rationalisation had begun

three days before the impeccably observed silence at Ilfield Road, which scoured the depths of tender emotions yesterday. On Monday evening, the team gathered to talk to the neurosurgeons who treated Tucker in vain. In more than 55 years of their medical experience, they could recall only two other similar cases.

It was, they added, a one-in-a-million chance. "They could not, of course, answer the one question everyone wanted to know: 'Why?' Afterwards the team split into groups to have dinner and share their feelings. None felt much like playing again, let alone a matter of days after their friend's death. But sport has a

precious talent for applying a tourniquet to pain. First, playing became a possibility; then essential. It helped that the opposition was Stanley's, the team for whom Tucker had first advertised his talent in Oxford exactly a year before.

"It was an important release for the players," Hill said. "Another step on the way back. Ian himself would not have wanted this to be a sombre occasion. He was, in many ways, a stereotypical Australian, in your face all the time. This was the best way to

celebrate his life." Simon Halliday, the England centre and Oxford Blue, consulted Tucker's family before committing his team to the match and gave every one of them the chance of to pull out right up to the moment of kick-off.

Nevertheless, standing in a dark blue line, the Oxford players must have wondered just how cathartic the afternoon would prove. It seemed the silence would never end, not least for Tucker's family watching in the stands, as players forgot the macho rituals of their game and unconsciously held hands and linked arms.

Nor would the images of last Saturday fade even for a moment. When the Australian, Trevor Walsh, Tucker's replacement at centre, was taken away in an ambulance for X-rays suffering from a blow to the side of the head, the parallels became uncomfortably grim. Thankfully, he was quickly released.

Today, a memorial service will be held in Keble College, which was Tucker's home for just a month. Another stage of the therapy. For the record, Oxford beat the Stanley XV 33-24 in a match of nine turns. That he was not to score a few himself would have been Ian Tucker's idea of tragedy.



Oxford University players observe a minute's silence on the pitch at Ilfield Road in memory of their team-mate

RUGBY UNION: AUSTRALIANS WASTE NO TIME IN ADAPTING TO BRITISH CONDITIONS

Little to miss first international

Scotland A.....20
Australia XV.....47

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE rust was falling away in shards as the Australians left a damp, murky Netherdale yesterday. Their first appearance in Great Britain for four years illustrated fully the inexperience of this touring team, matched as they were against a makeshift Scotland A side that produced only the odd patch of sustained play.

Worryingly, too, the Australians have already been beset by injuries to leading players. They lost Garrick Morgan in Italy and now seem likely to be without Jason Little, their experienced centre, for the next fortnight. Little damaged medial knee ligaments, which will keep him out of the international with Scotland on November 9, and he was followed from the field by the combative Michael Brial, with damaged ankle ligaments.

Few judgments need be made at this stage. Apart from two games last week in Italy, most of the Australians have enjoyed a five-week hiatus from rugby and their management admits that this tour will be a significant learning experience for many of them — for Greg Smith, the coach, as well, since all his experience has been south of the equator. In that respect, it was instructive to see an Australian side applying itself to slippery British conditions by mauling industriously, but not always with the required control.

Smith was unhappy about the amount of possession that his players lost and will not be slow in telling them. "I think it's a lack of skill rather than unfamiliar conditions," he said. "You can't keep making excuses for players. They are the elite, they cost a lot of money, they should be able to pass and catch a ball."

The margin of defeat may be less than flattering to Scotland A, who remained in contention until the final quarter. For that, they were prepared to thank their involvement in European competition. "We could not have



Little shrugs off the attentions of Lang before injury forced him to leave the field at Netherdale yesterday

produced a performance like that coming out of first division rugby," Graham Hogg, their coach, said.

They fell, though, between a running game and a less productive kicking game that had the effect of allowing the Australians to regroup, notably at the lineout, where Eales and Giffin produced the most satisfactory element of their afternoon.

It was not until three minutes before the interval that the Australians took the lead. Watched by observers from the Welsh and English unions, Scotland A started with an eight-point rush, Hogg dropping an early goal and Smith, squeezing over from a lineout maul and the interval had almost arrived before Herbert and Burke created a chance for the Australians that Horan finished on the right.

Had Herbert found him with another pass, Horan would have added a second try, but Kerr defended intelligently and it was an exchange of penalty goals between Hodge and Burke that allowed the Australians to settle.

For all the efforts of Wallace, who contributed substantially to any continuity that Scotland A achieved, the final quarter gave the touring side the chance to display to a three-hour crowd their finishing skills. Payne's break gave Horan a second try and he benefited himself from a break and pass back inside by Howard.

In between, the Australian forwards worked Connors over from a lineout for a try that would have been easily recognised south of the border, but is not quite the style that Australia hope to adopt as their tour develops.

Richmond move for South African pair

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RICHMOND, the ambitious second-division club, confirmed yesterday that they are negotiating with Cabous van der Westhuizen and Steve Atherton, the Natal players, to join them.

John Kingston, the Richmond coaching director, said that discussions were still at an early stage. "We enjoyed the benefit of talks with them. We already have a very good side, but they are both quality players and we could be interested," he said.

"We shall hope to hear from them again after they return to South Africa this week," he added. The two South Africans flew to England this week to test the market for their services. Bath and Harlequins are also said to have an interest in the pair.

A fifth player has withdrawn from the South African touring squad that leaves for Argentina, France and Wales tomorrow. Danie van Schalkwyk, the Northern Transvaal centre, has pulled out after suffering a recurrence of a groin injury. Dick Muir, of Natal, replaces him.

Muir has represented the South Africa seven-a-side team, and is the third Natal player to win a late call-up. Jeremy Thompson, another centre, and Adrian Garvey, the prop, have both been drafted in since the tour party was originally announced.

The Midland division have been forced to switch two of their tour matches next month because of the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs. The Midlands were supposed to play Queensland at Northampton on November 24 and Argentina at Leicester three days later, but both clubs have now made their grounds unavailable.

Graham Dall, the Harlequins' FP back-row forward, has withdrawn from the Glasgow-Edinburgh combined XV that plays the Australians on Saturday because of an elbow injury. David McLeish, from West of Scotland, will play at No 8 in his place. Paul Jenkins, of Boroughmuir, takes McLeish's place on the replacements' bench.

Cotton calls for RFU to expel clubs from union

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and England's leading clubs rumbled on yesterday. While the clubs heard high-powered sales pitches from the RFU and from the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) at Northampton, Fran Cotton, manager of the British Isles tour next year, was calling for the clubs to be dismissed from the RFU.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said: "This was not part of our head-to-head negotiations with Epruc. It was a presentation by both parties to about 15 of the 24 clubs in leagues one and two. It was a clarification of where we stand now. But there is no way yet of telling how the arguments were received."

The RFU was represented by Hallett, John Richardson, the president, Colin Herdridge, the treasurer, and Cliff Brittle, chairman of the executive committee. Epruc's case was presented by Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, and Charles Levison, of Wasps.

Meanwhile, Cotton criticised Epruc for their stance on withdrawing players from divisional sides. "I can't see why the men who are directing Epruc keep their clubs in the RFU," he said.

"They want to stop their players from playing against an international side like the New Zealand Barbarians and they tell their clubs not to make their grounds available. I also read comments from Sir John Hall [owner of Newcastle] saying that when he has obtained the support of the European courts, he will contact all his friends and arrange Epruc's departure from the RFU."

"So what are we waiting for here? According to their spokesmen, these clubs have no wish to be part of the RFU and appear to me to be in breach of RFU by-laws. I can't see why they should not be expelled so that the rest of the game can get on with running its affairs in a sensible and affordable way."

Wakefield, of the second division, have already stated that they will not stand in the way of players wishing to appear for their divisions, while other clubs are expected to follow their lead.

John Spencer, who chairs the North's playing committee, said: "I'm appalled at the decision to ask clubs to withdraw players. To do this as a protest illustrates perfectly their misconception of the nature of the game at other levels."

ANSWERS from page 42

- GAU**
(a) A territorial and administrative division of ancient Germany, including several villages or communities in the Middle Ages, a larger division, over which, under Frankish rule, was placed a gra. The word is a frequent final element of place-names, as Breisgau, Oberramsgau.
- ANGICO**
(a) A Brazilian name applied to the gum, etc., of the tropical South American tree *Platanus rigida*, which yields a hard durable timber, and an astringent bark and a gum both used medicinally.
- CATAPHATIC**
(a) Defining God positively, or by positive statements. The opposite of *apophatic*. From the Greek *kataphatikos* affirmative, *kataphatikos* to affirm. "In an end age he [St. Basil] turned from a cataphatic to an apophatic theology."
- DOPPER**
(a) The sobriquet of a member of the Gedeonrede Kerk in Suid-Afrika, a strictly orthodox Calvinistic denomination, commonly regarded as being old-fashioned in ideas, manner, and dress. Afrikaans, of uncertain origin.

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Saying "boo" to a nation

BRYANT'S

EYE

JOHN BRYANT

I don't doubt for a moment that Gerry Huxham's play about Dostoevsky is based on fact. I'm just slightly sceptical about exactly how strongly based. "Simple faith is all you need," Huxham's Dostoevsky says. The play shows a man needed much more than that. He needed the 120 words of a wife. He would have been in a fine pickle if she didn't have prepared the manuscript of his new novel *The Gambler*. I'm glad for him to win a rasher bet with his publisher. The play is literary history without tears. David Troughton plays the play as a mad writer. Ayanda Gordon his saviour. Peter Davison.

In many games, and in many countries, the demands of television have over-ridden the interests of both live spectators and the players. In World Cups and Olympic Games, you can get matches or marathons taking place at absurd local times and in unbearable heat to meet the

Scot reveals driving force behind his continued success

The club issued a statement yesterday paying tribute to Wells's "extremely valuable contribution" and the many runs he had made "despite all the pressure of captaincy", but there was no mistaking the whiff of grape-shot in the air.

Montgomery puts his trust in his manager, Kinnings, centre, his caddie, McLean, left, and his wife, Eimear. Photographs: Hugh Routledge

'Team Monty' judged on its merits

'Having good people around is crucial. That is why I win'

"One of the biggest driving factors in sport is a fear of inadequacy. That affects your confidence. If you are able to write down golf goals that can be achieved then you can make yourself a winner even if you come last. Colin and all the others in the top 30 must be doing something right."

Montgomery is competing in Hong Kong this week, but before he went he said: "I need people, good people, around me to help me, support me. I can't do ten jobs at once. I can only do one. So I have to trust people. I pay them good and for that I deserve good back."

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 1280. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 188 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNettles.

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RUGBY LEAGUE 42

Lions looking to Goulding to salvage injured pride

SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 31 1996

GOLF 46

The team keeping Montgomerie on a winning course



Football plans longer season

Fixture pile-up threatens summer break

By Russell Kempson and Peter Ball

FOOTBALL'S cherished summer break, the annual recharging of batteries, could be cut by two weeks for clubs in the FA Carling Premiership and one week for those in the Nationwide League. Talks are taking place between the leagues and the Football Association to see if it is practical to make an early start to the 1997-98 season.

If the discussions are fruitful, the Premiership would start on August 16, instead of August 10, while the Nationwide League would get under way on August 9. It is believed the change of dates would help alleviate the effect that heavy international commitments are now having on the domestic fixture lists.

Already this season, the number of blank Premiership weekends has been increased from five to seven. Though December 14 and March 29 were not originally designated as free weekends, with England not having a game, the FA Premier League, which runs the Premiership, decided to call off the games to help the managers of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The fixture problems have been exacerbated by clubs having voted to include under-21 players in the criteria for postponing matches. Previously, only senior international players counted. League officials also fear the onset of winter, with bad weather possibly adding to the mounting fixture backlog.

With a vast foreign legion of players now playing in the Premiership and Nationwide League, clubs have been further depleted by international call-ups. Next season, which sees the build-up to the World Cup finals in France, could prove even more chaotic, with an early start to the 1997-98 campaign now viewed as the

best, and possibly only, solution.

Mike Lee, the Premier League spokesman, said yesterday: "The main factor is trying to create maximum room for England — as many free weekends and dates as possible. We're increasingly blocked off parts of our season and, next season, the World Cup preparations will be intensifying."

"We've also now got a large number of overseas stars in the Premier League, who are a great attraction, but it makes for additional international

calls and the effect they have on fixtures. It is manageable this season, but giving that commitment to England, and the sheer reality of the effect of lots of international stars here is having on fixtures, is something you have got to deal with. You just can't ignore it."

"At present, the only way of overcoming this is by squeezing more and more Premier League fixtures into midweek, which we don't think is acceptable. We want to keep as much as possible to the traditional weekend programme. What we want to do is pre-plan for the whole season, to avoid cancellations and end-of-season pile-ups of games. To do that, you have little alternative but to extend the season."

Five Nationwide League first division games have already been called off on November 9, the weekend when all four home nations and Ireland are playing World Cup qualifying matches. On August 16 next year, when the Premiership would usually start, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland are again involved in the World Cup.

The Football League agrees that an answer has to be found. "The Premier League has intimated to us that they would like to start next season earlier," Chris Hull, a League spokesman, said. "We are also looking along those lines."

We're looking at a number of dates but, initially, we're looking at August 9. Discussions are continuing and we're hoping to come to some sort of agreement."

Nick Barnby's transfer to Everton from Middlesbrough for a club record fee of £5.75 million went through seamlessly yesterday. The formalities of the 4½-year contract were completed by lunchtime, after the England international forward had completed a medical.

"It was one of the easiest deals we've done," Cliff Finch, the Everton director, said. "Nick agreed terms in just 30 minutes, which when you consider the other clubs showing interest, could only mean that this was the club he wanted to come to."

After his long wait to strengthen his squad, Joe Royle, the Everton manager, was understandably delighted. "I've said all along I was waiting for the right people, and I was prepared to wait," Royle said. "The lad's qualifications all stack up. He's 22, he's an England squad member, he's a well-rounded player, he's a good finisher, he's scored goals for two clubs in the Premiership."

"We've got plenty of pace, power with Duncan Ferguson, and mobility, but Nick gives our squad a type of player we haven't got. He offers us a dual role — he can play as an out and out forward, or drop back and play as an advanced midfielder, like the front player, like Cantona."

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Carlos Moya, of Spain, who beat Tim Henman, of Britain, in the first round of the Paris Open, punches the air in celebration after his surprise second-round victory over Boris Becker yesterday. Report, page 44

Panel will deliver final word in sport disputes

By John Goodbody

AN INDEPENDENT panel to settle disputes in British sport is to be set up next year. The move is aimed at preventing competing bodies from being forced to waste money in seeking justice through the courts.

The scheme, originally suggested by Prince Phillip, president of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), is designed to settle cheaply and quickly issues such as the 18-month drugs dispute of Diane Modahl and the battle by Tottenham Hotspur in 1993 to be reinstated in the FA Cup after their original ban.

The Sports Dispute Resolution Panel (SDRP) has the backing of the leading umbrella bodies such as the CCPR, United Kingdom Sports Council and the British Olympic Association as well as the BOA's athletes' commission.

Charles Woodhouse, who chaired the working party, said a panel would handle internal issues within organisations who would accept its final ruling. This would include disputes on drugs, eligibility, discipline and procedures such as the penalising of clubs for misbehaviour.

Woodhouse, a partner in Farrer's, the solicitors, said he believed that lottery funding might be possible to help set up the board of arbitrators. It would consist of up to 50 people, comprising lawyers and officials, some specialists in sports medicine and science.

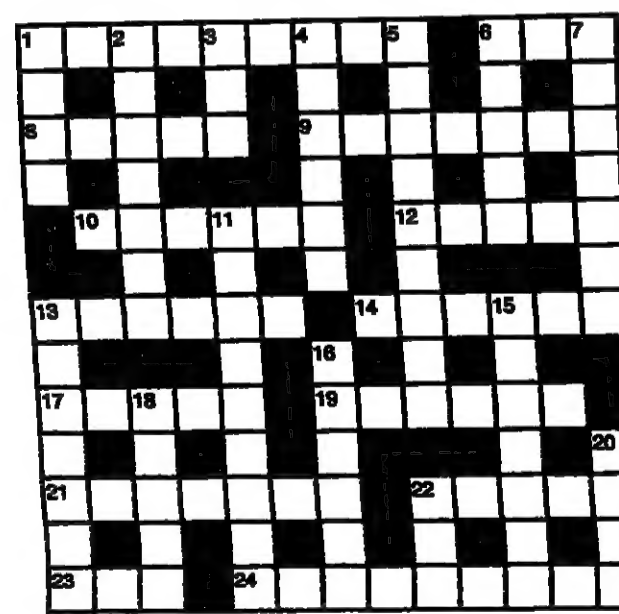
A hearing would take place with three nominated members of the board. One would be selected by the national governing body, the other by the appellant and it would be chaired by a third member.

The panel is based on the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which sat during the Olympic Games in Atlanta and settled several disputes about drug rulings. This was funded by the International Olympic Committee although it was completely independent and made up of distinguished lawyers including Michael Beloff, QC.

Woodhouse said the constitutions of governing bodies would have to be changed to make provision for the panel's decision to be final.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 927 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Run in pursuit (4,5)
- 6 A bolt; a cat; large (rev.) (3)
- 8 Clean; cancel (5)
- 9 One-eyed giant (GK myth) (7)
- 10 Temporary hitch (6)
- 12 Expire; slip (5)
- 13 Brief sleep (6)
- 14 Pleasant heat (6)
- 17 Vacant (5)
- 19 Reparations (made) (6)
- 21 Green Mountain state (7)
- 22 Semblance (5)
- 23 A herb; a French street (3)
- 24 Anticipate, prevent (9)

DOWN

- 1 Essence (of argument) (4)
- 2 Jury decision (7)
- 3 A horse; a nut (3)
- 4 Receive, agree to (6)
- 5 Exonerate (9)
- 6 Band (of pop musicians) (5)
- 7 Earnestly beg (7)
- 11 Put-round-obstacles game (5,4)
- 13 Butcher's chopper (7)
- 15 Atlantic islands; a fortified wine (7)
- 16 Order, motto *Honi soit...* (6)
- 18 In itself (3,2)
- 20 Prison room (4)
- 22 A state of matter; a fuel (3)

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DOWN: 1 Snowball 2 Check 4 Repute 5 Proletariat 6 Stilton 7 Laces 9 Turkish bath 12 Shaddock 14 Glad eye 16 Jockey 18 Luchy

Waiting game almost over

By Our Sports Staff

THE identity of the new England rugby union captain will be disclosed at Twickenham on Tuesday. The selectors to Will Carling have made their choice, but neither the player nor the RFU committee know who it is. I want to make it public only when the dispute at the top is settled. I don't want the player put in an invidious position of being asked his opinion on the politics."

Carling's successor will have a lot to live up to, for he smashed 44 victories in 59 internationals before retiring after England secured the five nations' championship at Twickenham last March.

The staged announcement at Twickenham next week symbolises the growing interest in England rugby. In 1988, Geoff Cooke, then the manager, casually announced that he had appointed Carling, the youngest player in the team, as captain for the match against Australia, and it took years for Carling to attain a high profile. His successor will have instant fame.

Today, Rowell will announce the training squad for the session at Bisham Abbey next Wednesday. It is expected again to number around 45 and to comprise the international and A-team squads.

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Referee overlooks penalty clause

Simon Wilde on how an official's oversight caused the delayed denouement of a cup-tie

When is a football cup-tie over? When the referee blows the final whistle? When the teams leave the pitch? When they have changed and showered? When the visitors are on the team coach? The answer is at least not if you are playing in the Dr Martens Cup, the Southern League's knockout competition.

The Witney Town players spent nearly 30 minutes on Tuesday night believing they had won their two-legged first-round tie against Clevedon Town on away goals, and were looking forward to a celebratory drink, before the referee administered the sort of steel-toed blow fully in keeping with the name of the competition's sponsors.

It was then that a red-faced Martin Perry, of Wimborne Dorset, summoned them back onto the pitch for a penalty shoot-out, admitting that he

had wrongly thought that away goals scored in extra-time counted double. The tie had finished 3-3 on aggregate, but one of Witney's goals in the 2-2 second leg draw at the Hand Stadium, Clevedon had come in extra time.

"I was having a drink with the Clevedon chairman in the boardroom when the physio came in and told us the news," Bryan Constable, the Witney chairman, said yesterday. "We had to get the players back onto the pitch. They needed a lot of persuading because they had all just had showers, put on their clean clothes and then they had to get back into their dirty kit."

"At first the players thought it was a wind-up... this kind of thing should only happen in village football, not with

semi-professional players. The referee should have known the regulations of the competition before he took the game. He did look suitably sheepish when everyone trooped back onto the pitch," he said.

With the match not finishing until 10.05pm because of delays for injuries, it was 10.30pm before the penalty shoot-out began. The stadium was now virtually empty for what had turned belatedly into the tie's climax.

Kevin Adler, the Witney goalkeeper, said: "I have been involved in some penalty shoot-outs in my time, but this one was the biggest anticlimax I have had. Usually you have loads of fans behind the net. But this time, there were only a hand-

ful of people. Most had thought the game was over and gone home."

Dennis Strudwick, secretary of the Dr Martens League, confirmed that the referee had sought guidance. "There was a gap between the final whistle and the penalty competition. The referee was in some confusion so the home club secretary telephoned me and I told him that the rules stated the competition should go to penalties. In my view the referee acted correctly to ask for help."

Fortunately for Witney — and, perhaps, for Perry — they won the shoot-out 4-2, but they showed little emotion second time around. "The players stood around not quite sure whether to celebrate or not," Constable said.

The teams are now probably sick of the sight of each other, but there is no respite. They meet again on Saturday in a league game.

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